

VALLEY STAR

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LOS ANGELES VALLEY COLLEGE

Student Numbers Falling

■ Enrollment numbers continue to drop.

By JACQUI BROWN
STAFF WRITER

For the second straight semester, student head count and course offerings have declined at California's community colleges.

"This is not good news for the state of California," said Thomas Nussbaum, California community college chancellor. "Access to the community college system is absolutely essential to keep California working."

Nussbaum presented a report to the Board of Governors last month that shows the system's enrollment is down 5.2 percent and class offerings have dropped by 8.7 percent from fall 2002 to fall 2003.

"Every student we turn away represents a lost opportunity and a broken promise to the people of California," Nussbaum said. "The community college system is ready, willing and able to fuel California's recovery by helping every motivated person gain the education and skills they need to be as productive as they can be, but we can only accomplish that if we are given the resources to hire the faculty and provide the services students need."

Valley College enrollment has dropped from 19,275 to 17,865 this fall, a 7 percent decrease from fall 2002, according to newly released statistics from the office of Research and Planning and the Los Angeles Community College District.

Valley is offering fewer classes and anticipates an

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City Council to Support Local Colleges

■ Leaders vow to fund budget strapped campuses.

By JACQUI BROWN
STAFF WRITER

The Los Angeles City Council Education and Neighborhoods Committee recently passed a resolution to support Proposition 98 to fund community colleges into the future.

Passed in 1988, the law guarantees that 10.98 percent of Prop. 98 dollars be allocated to community colleges. Last year, they received only 9.6 percent, resulting in a \$746 million loss, according to Los Angeles City Council member Bernard Parks.

"I'm recommending the Council support this resolution (AB 1417), which would establish an automatic adjustment to the California Community Fund apportionment to compensate for adjustments in property tax revenue," Parks said. "I'm also rec-

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WINTER MELODIES



JORDAN DiNAPOLI/VALLEY STAR

'TIS THE SEASON - Music professor Jennifer Kelly leads the Valley College Philharmonic Choir in "A Winter Wonderland of Choral Music" Sunday at Monarch Hall. The Philharmonic Choir, composed of local community members, joins two student choirs on campus.

EXCLUSIVE INTERVIEW Ritter: Weapons of Mass Distraction

■ Controversial former U.N. weapons inspector speaks to the Valley Star about Iraq policy.

By MICHAEL ORDOÑA
OPINION EDITOR

Scott Ritter, former Marine Intelligence officer, served as a United Nations weapons inspector in Iraq from 1991-1998. An outspoken critic of the Bush Administration and its conduct of the current conflict there, Ritter is the author of two books, including the new "Frontier Justice: Weapons of Mass Destruction and the Bushwhacking of America." He will speak at the Valley Cities Jewish Community Center Dec. 16.

Ritter recently spoke with The Valley Star's Opinion Editor, Michael Ordoña, about the Bush Administration's rationale for war and what America's exit strategy from Iraq should be.

THE VALLEY STAR: Were you surprised by what you found as a weapons inspector, or did it fall in line with your estimates?

SCOTT RITTER: When we went into Iraq, we weren't guessing about what we were looking for. We weren't at the mercy of the Iraqis to tell us the truth. We had traveled around the world and dug up the old contracts, followed through on

previous trips made to Iraq by foreign nations, the business relationships, the companies. We had a very good idea what the Iraqis had bought and what we should be finding, and we used that as sort of the stick to beat the Iraqis over the head with, to get them to tell the truth.

VS: Is it possible to estimate the percentage that you found of what they had?

SR: In the case of the missiles, we know that the Iraqis bought 819 Scud missiles from the Soviet Union in the '80s. We can account for 817 of these and we think we know what happened to the other two. We know we destroyed all the Iraqi production equipment related to missile manufacture. And we monitored the industrial base that could be converted for ballistic missile activity.

In the field of ballistic missiles we are about 98 to 99 percent certain that we have a complete understanding, as of 1998, of what the Iraqis had been doing and what they were doing.

This percentage drops in other areas. For instance, biological weapons. I think it's safe to say we have a 90 to 95

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Puente Hosts Borderlands Lecture

■ Borderlands conditions topic of lecture by human rights speaker.

By KRISTA CARLSON
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

More than 60 students welcomed Alfonso Gonzales to Valley College on last Wednesday where he addressed human rights issues in Latin America and the borderlands and how "Raza" students can respond.

Puente adviser Ivna Gusmao invited Gonzales, a Ph.D. candidate in political science at the University of California, Los Angeles, to speak to Puente students as part of the program's effort to guide students to transfer successfully.

Slides depicting scenes from impoverished Latin America, the effects of globalization and the consequences of U.S. foreign policy accompanied Gonzales' hour-and-a-half speech.

Gonzales spoke in Spanish and English to his largely bilingual audience of Puente students, Chicano studies students, sociology students and others. Puente is designed to get underserved students through the transfer program and into a university. The Puente English class focuses on Latino issues. Most Puente students are Latinos.

"Whoever doesn't know what's going on out there, there is quite a bit of information about what's outside our own



SALVADOR AGUILAR/VALLEY STAR

HUMAN RIGHTS - UCLA political science Ph.D. candidate Alfonso Gonzales speaks in the cafeteria conference room on the mistreatment of immigrants in Latin America and the borderlands.

United States," nursing student Lorena Mendez said. "I hope that everybody here that is part of South America can learn something and learn how to help change it."

Focusing on the specifics of government oppression in El Salvador, Gonzales illustrated human rights violations and poverty throughout Latin America. Gusmao, a native of Brazil, confirmed the statements Gonzales made. "Everything that you've discussed is a problem in Brazil too," Gusmao said.

Pointing out the connection

between poverty in borderlands and immigration, Gonzales said that, from 1980 to 1990 the number of poor rose from 120 million to 180 million; during the same time there was a huge wave of immigration. The discussion also included the North American Free Trade Agreement and its effects on immigration and the border patrol program Operation Gatekeeper, both enacted in 1994. More than 3,000 illegal immigrants have died crossing the border since 1994, according to Gonzales.

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DIVERSE
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MENDING A MONARCH
JORGE GALLEGOS TRACES
RECOVERY OF MONARCH
SOCCER STAR FRANCISCA
LEYVA FROM KNEE SURGERY

NEWS REEL

RACE FOR THE WHITE HOUSE 2004:

Former Vice President Al Gore endorsed Democratic presidential hopeful and former governor of Vermont Howard Dean Tuesday during an event in Harlem.

MEDICARE REFORM:

President George W. Bush signed a sweeping Medicare reform bill into law Monday despite intense criticism by many Democratic members of Congress.

Beginning in January 2006, the new law provides \$400 billion over the next decade to fund prescription drug coverage for seniors.

GUILTY:

Rep. Bill Janklow (R-S.D.) faces a possible 10-year prison term following his conviction for manslaughter Monday.

The state's lone member of the House of Representatives from the state was involved in a collision last summer which killed a motorcyclist. Janklow said he would resign his seat.

Valley Nursing Program: Valuable Resource

■ Campus Peer Mentoring may help foster youth stay in college.

BY TIFFANY FARMAKIS
STAFF WRITER

America is suffering from a nursing shortage, an epidemic with no apparent healthy diagnosis, according to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

The bureau predicts that by the year 2020 the nation will face a shortage of more than 400,000 registered nurses. California ranks 49 out of the 50 states in nurses per capita. The Economic Development Department predicts a shortage of 30,000 nurses by 2006 and estimates by 2010, that figure will jump to 110,000. These experts argue the impending crisis could hit as early as January when higher, state-mandated nurse-to-patient ratios take effect.

Bigger work loads, resulting from a surplus in patients, an increase in the average age of nurses, higher rates of retirement and inadequate wages have

all contributed to the shortage.

"Over the next 10 years, many nurses will retire and new nurses aren't entering the field at a rate that will replace them," said Linda Leach, a member of the Healthcare Association of Southern California's Nursing Shortage Task Force and of the board of directors of the Association for California Nurse Leaders. "This is a huge supply problem."

In addition to these problems, community colleges have failed to produce enough nurses to head off the looming crisis. At Valley College, many students are unable to take a full course load of 12 units, citing the need to work and take care of their families. Other students are forced into waiting lists that can take up to a year before getting into a nursing program. The programs are set up on a first-come, first-served basis, rather than a lottery system, which is

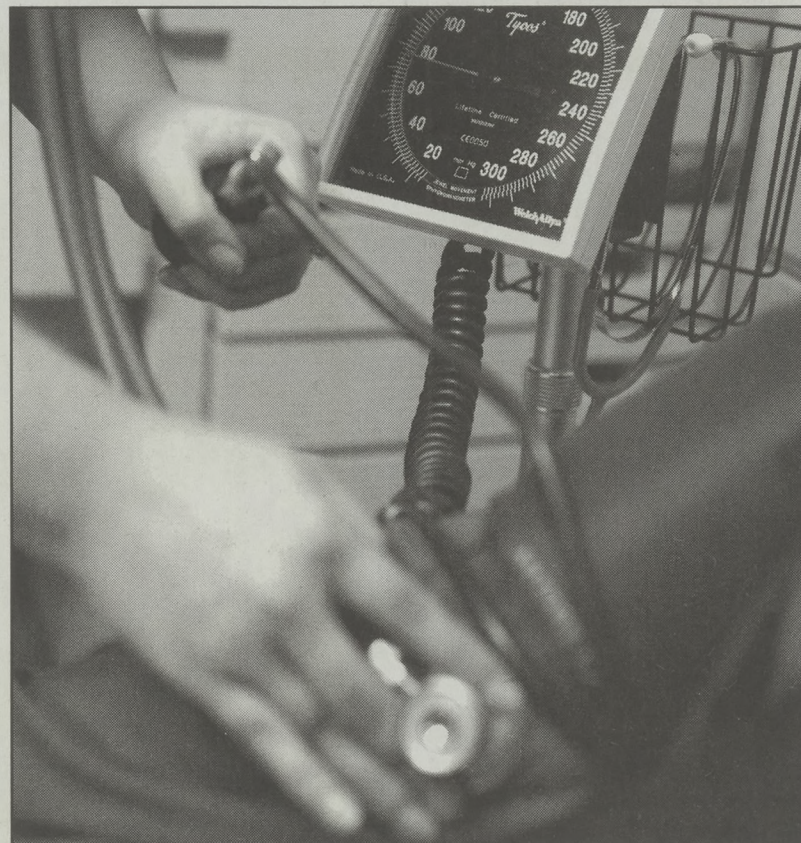
used at Pierce College.

"[These classes] are too competitive," nursing student Theresa Cruz said. "They're also very hard. A lot of people want to get into the nursing program, but fail the first class, or pass that and fail the second class. It's hard going from one step to the next; it's also very stressful."

Despite budget cuts plaguing other departments, the high demand of nurses has spared Valley's program. The college was allotted several government grants, including a \$190,000 two-year grant from the Los Angeles County Department of Health Services.

Former Gov. Gray Davis signed a bill last year that would allow nursing students to complete their education faster by standardizing nursing programs statewide to prevent community college transfer students from

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SALVADOR AGUILAR/VALLEY STAR

HEALTH CARE - Medical technician Brandy Rodriguez demonstrates how to take a blood pressure reading on Marilyn Matchett, R.N. at the student health center.

Recipe for a Successful Escape

■ Part 3 of the series: One emancipated foster youth's success story.

BY TAMMY ABBOTT
VALLEY LIFE EDITOR

When foster children enter the adult world they often lack some basic skills. In the past several weeks, The Valley Star has presented a series about programs designed to guarantee the success of foster children, such as Independent Living and Peer Mentoring. Presented here is the last of the three-part series, an account of the success of one such foster youth, Naomi Barnes.

Naomi Barnes was in the fifth grade, living in a house with no electricity. While she was at school one day, her mother was arrested for drugs

and taken away.

"Children's Services approached me at school and asked me all kinds of questions," Barnes said. "My mother told me to lie, but I'm not a liar. The result was that I was taken away from my mother and put into foster care."

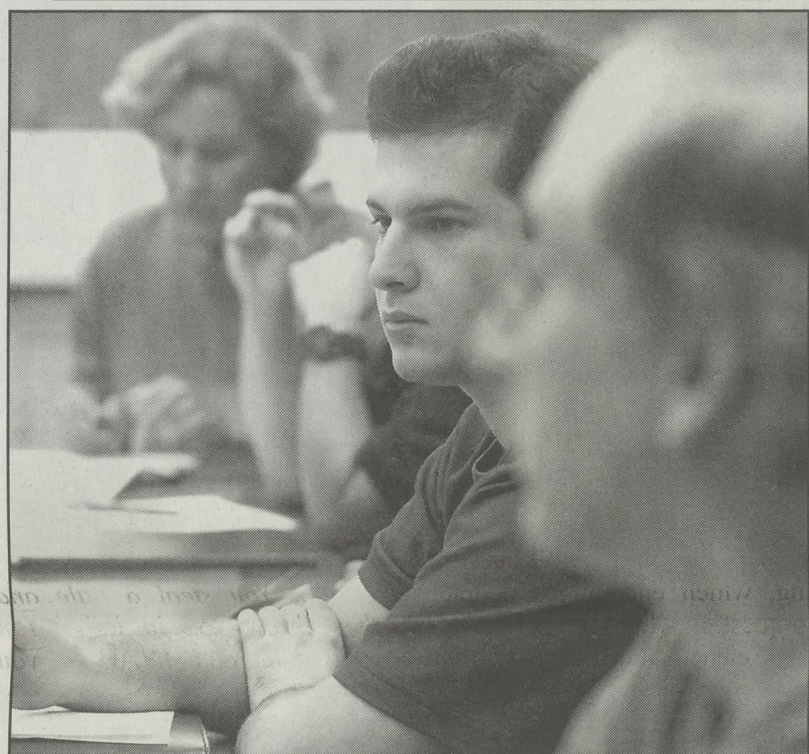
Barnes, fresh-faced and neatly dressed in black slacks and matching striped blouse, explained that she was placed with her extended family and that she feels fortunate to have been able to remain with them over the years. She has maintained a close relationship with them even after her emancipation. "I've been shocked to learn what other more unfortunate fos-

ter youths have been through," Barnes said.

The Community College Foundation asked Barnes to be a peer mentor for their Mount San Antonio pilot; now she is in her third semester as a mentor. "What's helped me the most is the support of my mentors. I know I can make a difference in someone's life because they've made a difference in my life."

Majoring in psychology, Barnes is a full-time student who shares some common goals with other mentor/mentee participants: To help other foster children make it to college and beyond, to break out of the foster

See Foster page 6



GABY ALONSO/VALLEY STAR

CONCERNS ADDRESSED - Students speak out about the campus smoking policy and plans for the cafeteria at the Space and Work Committee meeting Thursday. Please see story on page 8.

FALL 2003 Final Examination Schedule

December 15-21

Classes meeting one day per week, including evening classes, will have their finals at the first regular class meeting after December 14.

Classes meeting for less than a full semester will have their final exams at the last class meeting of the class.

Monday, December 15	Final Exam Time
Class time: 6:30/6:45 MW or MTWTh	6:30-8:30 a.m.
Class time: 9:40 MTWTh or MW or MWF	9:30-11:30 a.m.
Class time: 1:00 MTWTh or MW or MWF	12:30-2:30 p.m.

Tuesday, December 16	Final Exam Time
Class time: 6:30 TTh	6:30-8:30 a.m.
Class time: 9:40 TTh or TThF	9:30-11:30 a.m.
Class time: 1:00 TTh or TThF	12:30-2:30 p.m.

Wednesday, December 17	Final Exam Time
Class time: 8:00/8:15 MTWTh/MW/MWF	8:00-10:00 a.m.
Class time: 11:20-12:30+ MTWTh/MW/MWF	10:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.
Class time: 2:20/2:40 WTWTh/MW	1:00-3:00 p.m.

Thursday, December 18	Final Exam Time
Class time: 8:00 TTh/TThF	8:00-10:00 a.m.
Class time: 11:20 TTh/TThF	10:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.
Class time: 1:45 TTh/TThF	1:00-3:00 p.m.

Correction

In the Nov. 26 article "ETUDES Improve Education," the Valley Star incorrectly reported that no student orientations to the program had been scheduled. A schedule of student orientations is printed on page 2 of the spring 2004 schedule of classes. In the Nov. 19 article "Independent Living Possible," The Valley Star incorrectly identified Subway Sandwiches as the company providing food. Cousin's provided the sandwiches.

Valley Trees Get a Check-Up

■ Urban arborist Michael Mahoney conducts study to assess campus trees.

BY KRISTA CARLSON
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

The four-month process of naming and assessing all the trees on the Valley College campus began last month; many are in poor condition, according to arborist Michael Mahoney.

"Many of the trees on campus have major problems," Mahoney said. "It doesn't necessarily mean they have to be cut down. You have to expect a few issues, a campus environment is hard on trees."

Mahoney will create a database of an estimated 1,800 trees from his studies detailing canopy spread, diameter and other vital information about each. Each tree will be uniquely numbered and identi-

fied by both its' common and scientific names. Condition of roots, trunk, major and minor limbs will be rated from one, extreme problems, to four, no problems.

Mahoney pointed out a tree that could come down without warning on the south side of the entrance to parking lot A, an example of the poorer trees on campus. The liquid amber (commonly called American sweetgum) suffers from severe root decay, indicated by mushrooms growing at its base and the hollow sound of the trunk. The sweetgum's surface roots also crack the pavement. Because of the decay, the unstable tree leans east. "The location makes the problem more extreme," Mahoney said. Species, environment and

exposure are also factors.

"I can read the body language of the tree and infer certain physical characteristics of what's on the inside," Mahoney said.

Mahoney took time last week to show Valley's head gardener Jack Epling the problematic tree.

"On the campus we have a policy of trying to preserve the trees as best we can," Epling said, "but when something is of greater concern we've been able to take care of it." Epling is scheduling removal of the sweetgum.

Mahoney plans to submit his report to Berliner & Associates, Architecture, which is overseeing campus-wide improvements that he

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Club Day Rocks the Vote, Raises Money for Local Fire Victims

■ Students provide holiday cheer for fire victims.

BY SUSAN MALTBY
STAFF WRITER

Valley College student clubs generated some early holiday cheer for victims of the Southern California wildfire at the Club Day event last Wednesday in Monarch Square by raising money for victims of the recent wild fires.

The delights of the day included food, fun and fundraising, with a special guest speaker Sean McQuaid from "Rock The Vote." McQuaid issued a

call to student action and also spoke about new regulations for the Federal Communications Commission.

"Today's event was pretty successful," said Denise Mendez, Broadcasting Club president, who participated and organized the event. "I worked for months to get Sean from 'Rock the Vote' out to speak. He's a 20-year-old political science major from USC who got involved because he believes the mix of entertainment with politics is a good way to get 18 to 25

year olds interested and active in current issues in politics."

The 'Rock the Vote' representative spoke before students and on air during the campus radio station's live coverage of the event. "He explained current issues surrounding FCC regulations," said Mendez. "The new regulations are relevant to us as aspiring broadcasters who will be working within those laws."

Local radio station Hot 92.3 was on campus for most

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OPINION

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Even Blind Eyes Can See These Follies

■ They're lying to us. We know it. We're letting them get away with it.

BY KRISTA CARLSON
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Politicians have long suffered from mendacity disorder, but duplicity has become the rule rather than the exception for the current administration. Every day is opposite day for these compulsive liars.

If these jokers have their way, on the next generation of currency, "Say one thing, do the opposite" will become the nation's new motto.

The Bush administration has used not just empty promises but utter untruths to promote its haphazard, lobbyist-fueled agenda. After swearing that economic troubles faced during the Bush years would not be passed to the next generation, this band of snakes has saddled us with \$1.9 trillion in new debt over the next five years with passage of a bill increasing the borrowing limit of the federal government to \$7.4 trillion in May.

Here's another whale of a tale from our humble leader: That his Clear Skies legislation "mandates a 70 percent cut in air pollution from power plants over the next 15 years," as Bush told congress in August. But according to Sierra Club lobbyist Nat Mund, the president's plan would "actually result in more pollution than if we simply enforced the existing Clean Air Act."

How about a "Healthy Forests" initiative that prevents forest fires by promoting destructive logging?

When Bush said he wanted to "renew our commitment" to the Clean Water Act, he decided the best way to do that would be to loosen dumping regulations for factories, allowing water quality to regress to the worst conditions since the passage of the act in 1970, according to the National Resources Defense Council. The catalog of Bush's perversions of environmental policy would make even the most toxic waste dump overflow.

The USA PATRIOT Act is an oxymoron. Unless, of course, being patriotic means shutting up while John Ashcroft tramps all over our civil liberties. The PATRIOT Act's provisions allow phones to be tapped without any notice or reason, all kinds of records to be seized without justification and even limits the amount of information citizens may request under the Freedom of Information Act.

But the absurdity doesn't end there.

"Every child must be educated ... There's nothing more prejudiced than not educating a child," Bush said during his 2000 campaign. Later he announced, "We achieved historic education reform which must now be carried out in every school and in every classroom so that every child in America can read and learn and succeed in life."

Among the provisions of the reform plan, ironically labeled "No Child Left Behind": Public education institutions must release private student information for military recruitment purposes or risk losing funding; and testing and administration requirements create a burden not financed by the act, forcing schools to divert funds from educational programs for children of low-income families, professional training for teachers and additional teaching resources.

And all this goes without detailing the litany of discredited statements the administration used to justify our invasion of Iraq.

Bush backers delight in explaining that some of the dis-

credited statements are "technically correct" or "tailored to fit the audience." That's just plain revolting. But where is the outcry? Where is the voters' rage?

The public's acceptance of all these contradictions indicates a serious erosion of democracy. The buildup of lies and Bizarro World policies disillusion voters, making them check out of the system. By choosing to disregard the dishonesty, the American public consents to the deceit and allows this pattern of injustices to incur no consequence.



ILLUSTRATION BY TIFFANY FARMAKIS / VALLEY STAR

With a Song in My Heart

■ Why get so excited about an Eminem lyric when there are songs that really do criticize Bush?

BY MICHAEL ORDOÑA
OPINION EDITOR

Eminem threatened George Bush!

Well, maybe not. On what must have been a dreadfully slow news day, some desperate muckrakers tried to pretend that a throwaway lyric from a bootlegged, unreleased track constituted an attack on W: "I don't rap for dead presidents / I'd rather see the president dead."

Now, I'm no expert on Marshall Mathers (I'm so old school I actually own the 12-inch of "White Lines"), but I do know "dead presidents" is slang for money, so the lyric is prob-

ably best interpreted as: "I don't do what I do just for money / I would rather some general disaster befall than be reduced to such a loathsome state."

Besides, Eminem isn't exactly in the Public Enemy-Rage Against the Machine league of hard-hitting political artists. In fact, the only political statements of his that I recall are gags from his videos, from "Without Me," in which he had been a lad in bin Laden drag; and "The Real Slim Shady," in which he lampooned Bill Clinton's Oval Office lip service.

But this utter non-story did put me in a musical mood. For instance, when Bush jumps in a flight suit on an aircraft carrier after dodging the Vietnam draft by going AWOL for almost his entire service in the Texas Air National Guard, I'm reminded of the lines:

"Some folks inherit star-spangled eyes / Ooh, they send you down to war, Lord / ...It ain't me, it ain't me / I ain't no senator's son / ...I ain't no fortunate one" — John Fogerty, "Fortunate Son"

Or when I see him spewing platitudes about liberty as he misleads the country into war for fun and profit:

"They say that patriotism is the last refuge / To which a scoundrel clings ..."

And when I see the billion-aire buddies, who bailed him out time and again when he drove businesses into the ground, now making a killing as a result of his policies, I hear the rest of the lyric:

"... You steal a little and they throw you in jail / You steal a lot and they make you king" — Bob Dylan (channeling Samuel Johnson), "Sweetheart Like You"

Facing the largest deficit in U.S. history as our soldiers in Iraq use outdated equipment, Bush passed more tax cuts for the wealthy:

"We are amazed but not amused by all the things you say you'll do / Though much concerned but not involved with decisions that are made by you ..."

Or when I think of his unconscionable "No Child Left Behind" program (aptly re-dubbed "Millions of Children Left Behind" by Arianna Huffington):

"... Well we are sick and tired of hearing your song / Telling how you're gonna change right from wrong / 'Cause if you really want to hear our views / You haven't done nothin'" — Stevie Wonder, "You Haven't Done Nothin'"

And then there's the outright theft of the 2000 election that got us in this mess in the first place:

"...Two and two always makes up five / It's the devil's way now / There is no way out / You can scream and you can shout / It is too late now / Because you have not been paying attention." — Radiohead, "2+2=5"

There doesn't seem to be much room for protest music on the radio these days, unless you count Justin telling Britney to "Cry Me a River." But this isn't as ridiculous an issue as it seems — dissent in all forms has been viciously attacked as unpatriotic. Just ask Scott Ritter or the Dixie Chicks.

So with apologies (but no royalties) to Country Joe and the Fish, submitted for your approval is this updated spin on "The Fish Cheer & I-Feel-Like-I'm-Fixin'-To-Die Rag":

"And it's one, two, three / What the hell are we fighting for? / I may not be comin' back / Goin' to Baghdad, Iraq / And it's five, six, seven / Open up the pearly gates / Iraqis love us, Bush wouldn't lie / Whoopee! we're all gonna die."

ONE WAY OR ANOTHER

EACH WEEK, THE VALLEY STAR EXAMINES AN ISSUE FROM TWO SIDES.

THIS WEEK: **HOW SEPARATE SHOULD CHURCH AND STATE BE?**

FOR GOD AND COUNTRY

BY JOHN TARR
SPECIAL TO THE STAR

"One nation, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all." What's missing from this Pledge of Allegiance?

God is not missing yet, but one day it might all change: the money, the pledge, the songs ... who will bless America then?

The separation of church and state is a travesty and may have consequences beyond the short-sighted imagination of its proponents. God will still bless His people, but the country that turns its back on God will feel the cold, strangling grip of evil pervading the hearts and minds of those who deny the gift of God's grace.

This country was founded on Judeo-Christian principles, its laws based upon the Ten Commandments and the power of prayer of the faithful who have called upon God to bless this country.

Current-day proponents of the separation claim that the founding fathers designed the First Amendment to protect the people from Christians and their prayers, teachings, monuments and pledges. Nothing could be further from the truth.

The founding fathers designed the First Amendment to ensure the general public the right to practice whatever religion they desired. The First Amendment was designed to keep government out of religion but it was not intended to keep Christianity hidden from the public.

It's a fact that every session of Congress begins with a prayer given by an ordained minister — paid for by tax dollars. It's a fact that on ships in the U.S. Navy, at 10 every evening a prayer is broadcast over

the public address system. It's a fact that in the Declaration of Independence, the Constitution, Gettysburg Address and numerous other famous documents and speeches that the name of God is invoked.

The invocation of God's name and the asking of His blessing upon people, land, and decisions to be made is nothing new. But some sects of the general public would have us believe that it is wrong. Why, when we have asked for God to bless this land and its people for more than 200 years is it suddenly

It would be irrational to go to another country and expect them to change their beliefs.

religious displays? America was founded as a Christian nation; there should be no disputing that. If I don't want to speak another language or practice another religion it would be irrational for me to go to another country and expect that country to change to satisfy my particular beliefs.

Yet that's what a minority of Americans would have us do — remove all references to God in public, prayer in school and acknowledgement of our Creator and His divine providence.

God's people must take a stand to fight and protect the sacred name of God, to protect the Pledge of Allegiance, to protect the teaching of Creation versus evolution in public schools. We must stand up for the God-given right to practice Christianity and proclaim the wonders of God across this land — from every mountain top, from sea to shining sea.

A THEOCRATIC, GEOCENTRIC, UNEVOLVING AMERICA

BY BENJAMIN FAVELA
PHOTO EDITOR

"I contemplate with solemn reverence that act of the whole American people which declared that their legislature should 'make no law respecting an establishment of religion or prohibiting the free exercise thereof,' thus building a wall of separation between church and state." — Thomas Jefferson

This is not about political correctness. This is not about protecting the feelings of others. This is about logic.

It's true that this country was founded on Judeo-Christian beliefs. Of the 55 men who authored the Constitution, 53 were evangelical Christians. However, that doesn't mean religion should be part of our government or schools. Even this group of fervent believers guaranteed us the right to practice whatever religion we wish, and that the state would not promote one over another.

The more we allow religion to guide our laws and our policies, the closer we move to a theocracy. How can any patriotic American advocate that?

Look at theocratic countries: England was a schizophrenic mess in the 15th and 16th centuries as the ruling religion swung from Catholicism to Protestantism and back with the death of monarchs; Afghanistan was under rule of the Islamic Taliban and killed women accused of adultery and homosexuals in public events rivaling ancient Rome at its most debauched.

Women certainly would not have gotten far. Ephesians 5:22 says, "Wives, be subject to your husbands...for the husband is the head of the wife." If our society lived by this and other rules in Judeo-Christian dogma, women would never have left the kitchen. And don't

get me started on the plight of homosexuals, or anyone who simply doesn't believe.

Most religions are based on ancient texts that are open to interpretation and taken to be infallible, whatever that interpretation may be. To the zealot, these ideas are the sole truth, always have been and always will be. Religion has a hard time with critical thinking, which encourages people to question what they're taught.

Science and logic, on the other hand, thrive on skepticism. If nobody questioned anything, we would never have gotten this far. Remember, if the Christian powers that be had their way, we would still believe the sun revolved around the earth and none of us would have ever heard of evolution.

"That's the way God made it" is not a satisfactory response to a scientist, and it shouldn't be to our government.

But the fact is, we live in a changing world. It doesn't stand still. It evolves. We face new challenges every day that the mysterious authors of millennia-old mythology could not possibly have imagined.

Approximately 73 percent of Americans consider themselves to be Christians, according to a 2000 survey by the City University of New York. That means 27 percent, or about 71 million Americans, are not Christians. Is it right for our schools and laws to act as if these other beliefs don't exist or don't have merit?

The church should not influence the state, and the state should not influence the church. They are two separate entities and the only way we can keep our great nation — and our world — moving forward is to always keep them separate.

Campus View

PHOTOS BY GABY ALONSO



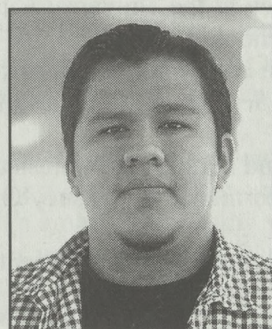
"I'm religious; they should be together, everything is influenced by religion."

Cristina Dominguez



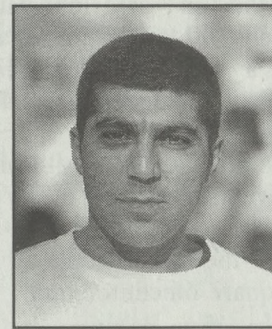
"Everyone has different religions, it would be unfair to other people and their religions [if there was no separation]."

Flora Maadani



"It needs to be separate. Church teaches morals; [the] state has no compassion. They both have different views of freedom."

Luis Cortez



"They should be together ... I just don't know about those gays and lesbians; they shouldn't be allowed to get married in church."

Sam Alaverdyan

How separate should church and state be?

CAMPUS SCENE

Wednesday, Dec. 10

LAVC Jazz Ensemble
Music Room 112
11:30 a.m.

Thursday Dec. 11

Student Performances
Music Recital Hall
11:30 a.m.Broadway Showcase
Students from Musical
Theatre Class
Music Recital Hall
3:00 p.m.FITNESS
CENTER
FUNDRAISING■ Much-used facility
needs a maintenance
contract and new equip-
ment.BY MICHAEL ORDOÑA
OPINION EDITOR

Plagued by malfunctioning and outdated equipment, Valley College's fitness center began a fundraising drive last week.

"Five treadmills and seven Stairmasters are broken," fitness center co-coordinator Bernie Christian said. "Just for a treadmill you're talking about \$6,600. So we're trying to get as much money as we can."

According to Christian, a maintenance contract would fend off many of these equipment problems and save the center money. A three-month contract would cost \$1,200.

"A great goal would be \$20,000 to \$25,000," Christian said. "Two treadmills and some stationary bikes could be purchased, as well as the maintenance agreement."

The Valley Patrons Association will match funds raised until the March deadline.

"It's straight donations," Christian said. "Just write a check to the Patrons Association or Patrons LAVC and drop it in the jar at the Fitness Center. It's all tax-deductible."

Much to Christian's content, one woman has already pledged to donate a new treadmill in the fall.

Guitar Ensemble

BY SUSAN MALTBY
STAFF WRITER

Valley College student Sheldon de Souza was among the 21 members of the LAVC Classical Guitar Ensemble who performed in formal attire at an evening concert at the music recital hall Dec. 5.

"I feel like an international spy in this tuxedo," de Souza said. His classmates commented that he looked better than he did on Halloween when he spent the day dressed as a woman. "I almost dressed in drag again, but instead, today, I'm a musician of international repute," he explained with a smile.

More than 200 people filled the recital hall to maximum capacity. Just minutes before the performance, ensemble members scrambled to find additional seating for the biggest concert audience of the season.

Once seated, the crowd enjoyed arrangements spanning five centuries of classical guitar music including the contemporary hit "Classical Gas" by Mason Williams. Ensemble director and classical guitar instructor Robert Mayeur arranged the piece for the ensemble and supporting orchestra. Student J.C. Luna performed a flawless guitar solo in the popular song.

The classical guitar ensemble includes current and former Valley students and is richly enhanced with an orchestra of violins, flutes, violas, cello, string bass and bass classical guitar.

The evening included a pristine duo performance by Allen Ault and Mhair Sarkissian of the Carulli piece "Rondo." The night also featured performances by the LAVC Classical Guitar Quartet, Andre Berrocal and Chris Leish.

Elbira Fernandez attended to watch her son, classical guitarist Hiram Fernandez, perform in the ensemble. "I already know all of the songs because I hear my son practicing them so many times," Fernandez said. "It's wonderful to hear the songs with the



IRENE KALENTS/VALLEY STAR

Classical Concert - Robert Mayeur, director of LAVC Classical Guitar Ensemble is conducting Antonio Vivaldi's Concerto in B Minor on Friday.

orchestra and all of the guitars together. I enjoyed it a lot."

After the final concerto the audience responded with deafening applause, enthusiastic cheers and a standing ovation.

Once the performers took their final bows and the applause began to fade, the director Mayeur quietly advised the performers about encores. "Usually, after a standing ovation you would play an encore, but we don't have one so you're free to go."

"I was really proud of everybody who performed tonight," Mayeur said. "I've been blessed with some really good, talented people. Nice people, too. Nice and talented."

Christmas Movies – Naughty and Nice

■ "Elf" is a boondoggle of sweetness; "Bad Santa" is an insulin shot for the holidays.

BY MICHAEL ORDOÑA
OPINION EDITOR

Jon Favreau, best known as the writer-star of "Swingers" and the auteur of "Made," has concocted with "Saturday Night Live" alum Will Ferrell an insanely sugar-coated holiday movie, "Elf."

"Elf" is the story of Buddy, a human baby who is raised by Santa's elves at the North Pole and, despite the fact that he grows up to be the 6-foot-3 Ferrell, he innocently does not realize he is different from the others. Buddy eventually goes to the magical land of New York City to meet his unwitting human father (a bewildered James Caan), gener-

ating fish-out-of-water hi jinx all over town.

Ferrell is the new king of the big sweet doofus genre and looks like he'll be around for a long time. He's a hilariously overgrown ingénu, hugging everyone, singing loudly, eating every sucrose-laden substance in sight and incessantly smiling. "Smiling's my favorite," he declares. Zoëy Deschanel is charming as Buddy's love interest, with a gorgeous, throwback, Peggy Lee-style singing voice as an added bonus.

Complete with references to Rankin-Bass holiday classics like "Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer," "Elf" is good clean fun.

And then there's "Bad

Santa," which is like 90 minutes of Tourette's Syndrome.

"Ferrell is the king of the big sweet doofus genre ... Thornton is delightfully scummy"

Not that the language is especially profane by today's standards; it's more the context in which the amoral protagonist vents himself — often in front of young children and their stunned parents. The cursing, staggering drunk Santa impostor simply has no filtering device. The appeal is similar to that of "South Park" in that its absurd inappropriateness turns up its nose (and other body parts) to the materialistic

traditions of the holidays.

Billy Bob Thornton is delightfully scummy as the loser Willie, a deteriorating safe-cracker pulling his annual score as a shopping mall Santa Claus who rips off his employers on Christmas Eve. Tony Cox plays the brains of the outfit, Marcus, an African-American dwarf who plans the scams and drags Willie out of the gutter when necessary — which is often.

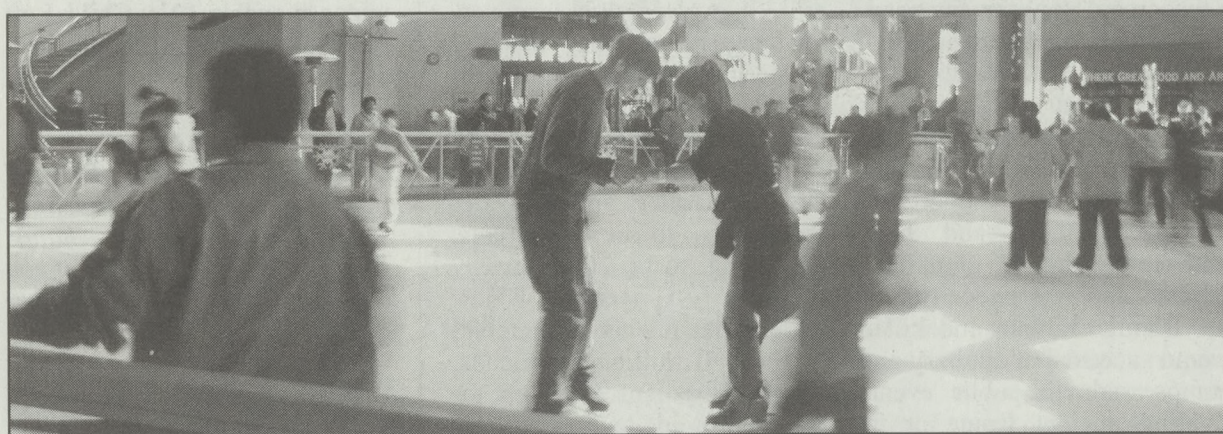
The supporting cast is right on target. Bernie Mac is the no-bull mall security chief, Lauren Graham of TV's "Gilmore Girls" plays an attractive woman who is just messed up enough to dig Willie, young Brett Kelly is a real find as the kid who sparks Willie's transformation

into a near-human, and the late John Ritter makes his final film appearance as the nervous mall manager.

Written with malicious zeal and directed with sly wit, "Bad Santa" is, scatological, over-sexed, vicious — and hilarious. Definitely not for kids, "Santa" is the insulin shot to the diabetic shock of "Elf."

"Elf" ***1/2 Dir. Jon Favreau. Written by David Berenbaum. Will Ferrell, James Caan, Mary Steenburgen, Zoëy Deschanel.

"Bad Santa" ***3/4 Dir. Terry Zwigoff. Written by John Requa and Glenn Ficarra. Billy Bob Thornton, Tony Cox, Bernie Mac, Lauren Graham, John Ritter.



JORGE GALLEGOS/VALLEY STAR

HOLD TIGHT - A couple enjoys their visit to City Walk Ice Skating Rink on a winter night.

Culture On A Dime:

Gliding Through The Holidays

BY TAMMY ABBOTT
VALLEY LIFE EDITOR

ON SKATES:

We may not have Snowmen in Los Angeles, but we do have outdoor ice-skating. There are two locations to choose from: Universal City Walk and Pershing Square, which is in its sixth year.

"All ages are welcome to join in the fun," said John Hicks, employee at the Universal City Walk facility. "We expect approximately 700 to 800 people a day once school is out."

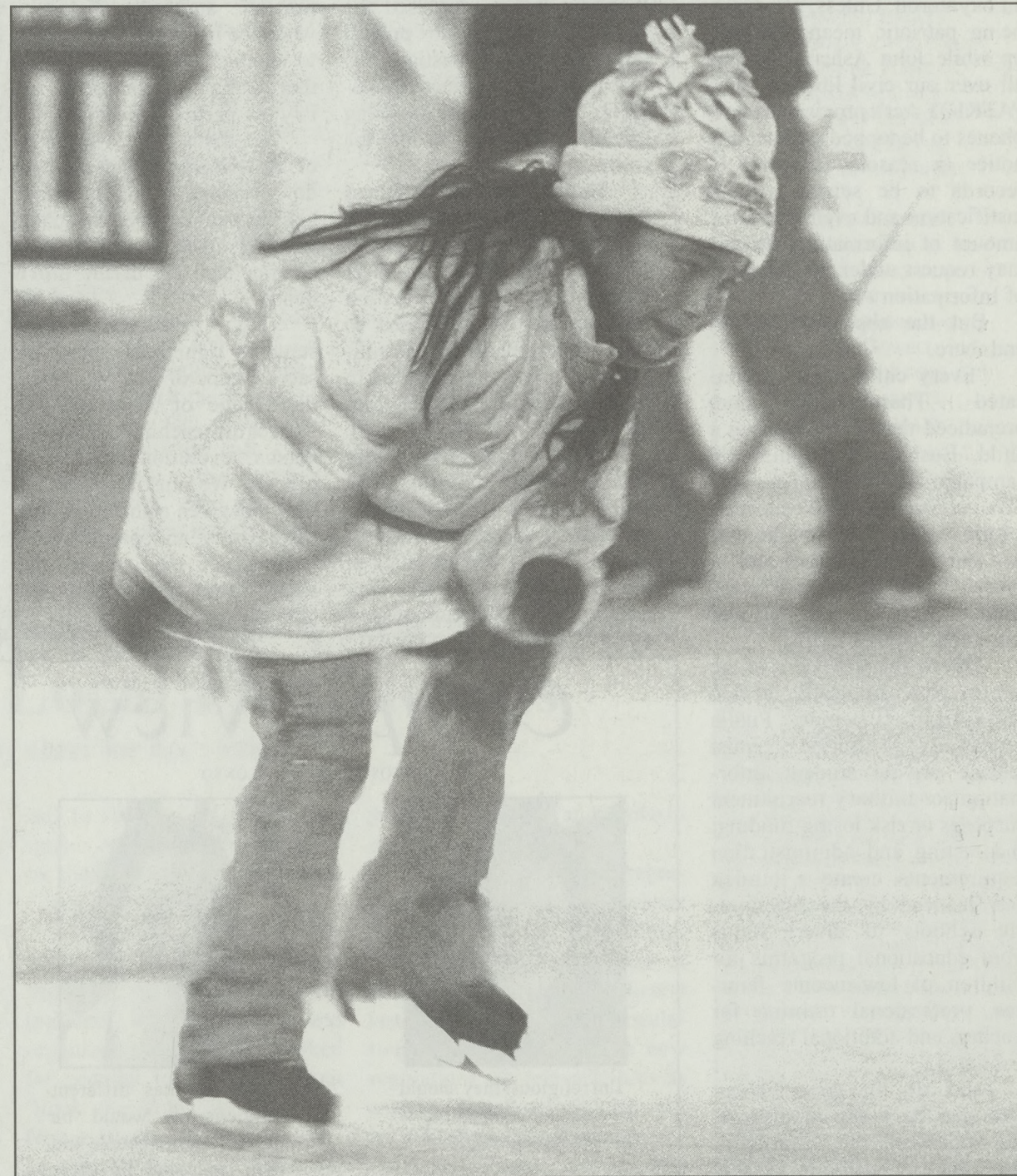
Both facilities are open seven days a week, including holidays, with an hourly admission price of \$9 for children and \$10 for adults, which includes the skate rental fee. Season passes are available for \$24.95.

"L. A. Kings Downtown On Ice" offers free hockey clinics for kids and adults, a free musical concert series and numerous special events, including a live preview performance of "Disney On Ice" at Pershing Square.

Hours vary. Check the websites for the latest details at www.citywalkhollywood.com/events and <http://www.laparks.org/pershingsquare/lunchtime.htm>

IN THE CAR:

Nearly half a million visitors will take a trip down Crystal Springs Drive in Griffith Park to see the wonderful light display that the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power has constructed for the holiday season. It will be open daily from 5 p.m. to 10 p.m. until December 28. Free shuttle tours are available Friday through Sunday if you don't want to drive, and can be boarded from the Los Angeles Zoo parking lot.

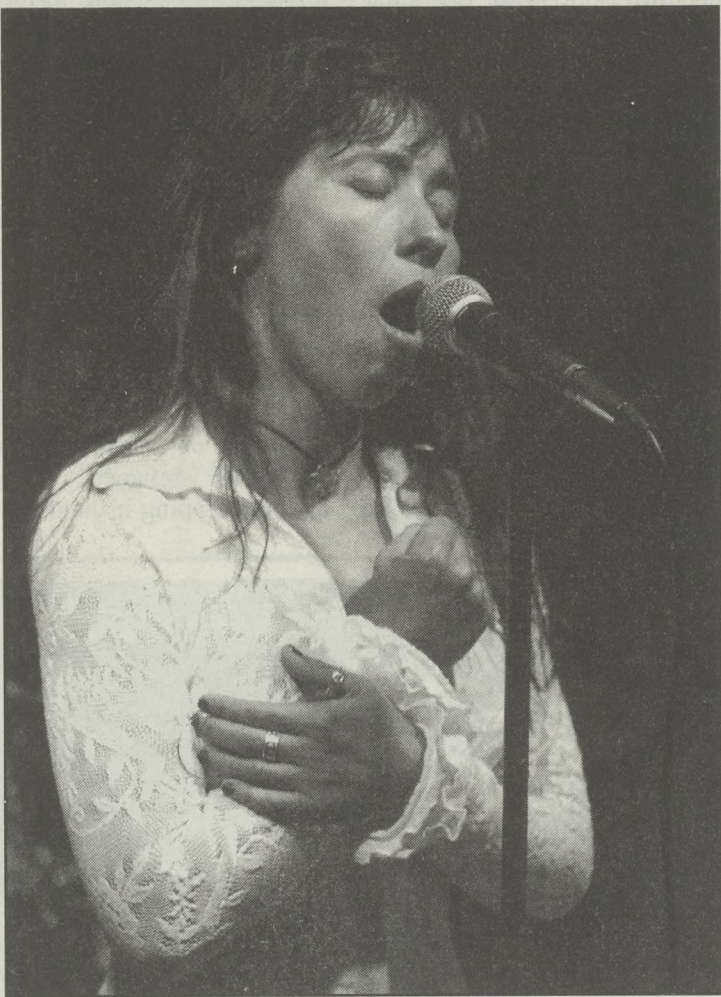


TAMMY ABBOTT/VALLEY STAR

MOVING RIGHT ALONG - Birthday girl Marisol Cruz skates to her heart's content at the Universal City Walk Sunday evening.

VALLEY LIFE

5



TAMMY ABBOTT/VALLEY STAR

FROM THE HEART - Katia Moraes sings a ballad to an intimate audience at the La Ve Lee Jazz Club November 29.

KATIA MORAES: SINGER, SONGWRITER, WOMAN

BY BENJAMIN FAVELA
PHOTO EDITOR

About 100 people packed the La Ve Lee, a tiny Studio City restaurant and jazz club, all for one reason: to listen to and feel the rhythmic and sensual sounds of the band Sambaguru and its front woman, Valley College student and singer Katia Moraes on a November Saturday night.

Moraes, in a long sleeved mesh top and sequined jeans, addressed the crowd in her thick Brazilian accent: "You want to learn Portuguese?" she asked as she began her performance. When the audience didn't respond correctly, she gave one more appeal: "Come on, you want to learn Portuguese or go home? You have no choice."

With her eyes closed and body moving, Moraes became one with the music, not only letting her audience listen to the sounds, but to see them. With a sway of her hips and fast movement of her feet, Moraes' energy resonated off of her and into each person in the building.

Moraes, a friend of the Velas Jazz Band which performed at Valley earlier this semester, was pulled out of the audience to sing the bossa nova classic "The Girl From Ipanema." She has been a student at Valley for two semesters and is a known commodity in the Music Department. It was clear that the ease of Moraes' impromptu singing, and the beauty of her clear, smooth voice struck the audience.

Born and raised in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, Moraes is the daughter of an accountant father and homemaker mother. Although she never had a musical influence growing up, Moraes gives credit to her mother, who sang endlessly throughout the house before she died in 1984 of familial amyloid polyneuropathy, a degenerative nerve disease. Moraes was 20 at the time of her mother's death.

During the mid to late-1980s in Brazil, Moraes was part of the pop-rock band O Espirito da Coisa, which was responsible for the national hit, "Slightly Pregnant."

In 1990, Moraes decided to come to the U.S. for two

reasons, one was to break away from her life in Brazil, "People there stay and never leave their hometown." Another was to follow her now ex-husband to Van Nuys, when he attended the now defunct Dick Grove School of Music, which brought her to the San Fernando Valley. Moraes' hopes of attending the school were in vain.

"I wanted to attend the school," Moraes said, "but couldn't because when we ousted the president of Brazil, he froze all bank accounts and I couldn't get any of my money."

In her 13 years in California, Moraes has fronted many bands, the first being the Brazil Nuts. Currently Moraes is with the band Sambaguru, who has played all over the U.S. in such venues as the Getty Center, the Hollywood Bowl and the John Anson Ford Amphitheatre. They have also performed in such music festivals as the Playboy Jazz Summerfest, the Grass Valley World Music Festival and the French Quarter Festival in New Orleans.

The Spring 2003, Moraes decided to start a new stage of her life and began attending classes at Valley. "She is a delightful student," Dianne Wintrob, music department chair as well as Moraes' voice instructor, said. "She has so much energy, the class feels it and it rubs off on them."

Although Moraes has had much success as a singer for the past 20 years, the voice classes at Valley she finds difficult. "There's so much more emphasis on posture and breathing," Moraes said. "Not so much on the style of your performance."

"I've seen her perform live," fellow student and friend Bini Shimizu said, "I thought I had a lot of energy, but she has a LOT of energy."

Moraes, for the most part, only sings in Portuguese, simply because of her obvious Brazilian accent when she sings in English. When asked what her songs are about, Moraes says, "I write songs about feminine power, of female sexuality and sensuality. Not to be confused with feminism, which in America is looked down on."

HANDS-ON SOCIOLOGY

■ Students in directed studies program gain valuable experience for later employment.

BY HARRIET STEINBERG
STAFF WRITER

Hands-on experience in Valley College's directed studies sociology classes has prepared another group of students for field work this semester.

Under the direction of sociology professor Michael Vivian, students gain skills that give them an advantage in the job market for social work.

"There's a strong distinction between cooperative education, which other colleges have, and directed studies," Vivian said.

In directed studies, each student completes a required amount of volunteer work in the field of their choice, as well as assigned reading and suggested reading material from The Los Angeles Times.

Vivian's comprehensive program enables students to get jobs that they ordinarily wouldn't.

"They normally look for someone who has a master's degree," he explained. "I train my students to think professionally as early as I can."

The students' volunteer experiences can be very emotional.

"I require my students to

write in their journals about their state of mind when they do their volunteering," Vivian said.

"My journal prepared me for my thesis, which I plan to work towards at Long Beach State College," said Dana Hubert, a former Valley student. "Writing about my emotions is what really helped me."

Her journal included detailed accounts of volunteer activities and supervisor reports.

Volunteer work for Hubert included accompanying police on domestic violence calls.

As a student, she couldn't do any counseling; her job was to make the victims feel more at ease.

"I sometimes got kids," Hubert said. "My job was to calm them down and get them to talk about what they saw. The police give the official report."

Hubert's volunteer work also included working on the crisis hotline at the shelter.

"The volunteer work with directed studies at Valley has taught me the importance of expanding my knowledge within the field of social work."

Hubert landed an advanced job because of Vivian's training, with solid knowledge of crisis

counseling and the importance of obtaining resources, she said. Hubert is in an administrative position at a transitional housing program for emancipated girls.

Trained in domestic abuse, Hubert learned a great deal by volunteering at Haven Hills shelter, working with battered women and their children.

Martha Estrada did some volunteer work at juvenile hall.

"It's like a jail," Estrada said. "Except it's for juveniles."

There was one girl with a life sentence because she killed someone, Estrada reported.

"She will be there until she's 18 and from there she will be transferred to a prison."

Estrada said that her job volunteering was to talk to, but not counsel the boys and girls.

"I want to do something leading in the legal aspect," Estrada said, explaining the influence the experience had on her to focus on criminology.

During her project on child abuse prevention, Hermine Baburyan learned to lead support groups on the Internet for survivors of child abuse and domestic violence.

"I learn how to do this by role playing," Baburyan said.

"One student makes up a story that they have been abused and the other pretends to be the facilitator."

Baburyan and others practice their techniques in behavioral science 103.

"[We] meet here to observe professionals who facilitate support groups over the Internet on Fridays from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m."

This training will enable students to facilitate online support groups from all over the world.

After students have completed necessary class work and training in this field they can work online out of their homes.

Baburyan said, "After I get certified, I will be on the Internet on www.YESICAN.org. I want to eventually major in psychology."

Directed studies are conducted at Elementary, Middle and High School Tutorial project at Riverside Elementary, Miliken Middle School and Grant High School.

The Golden Age project involves working with the elderly at Sherman Oaks Village Health Center. Child abuse, domestic abuse, rape crisis advocate can become certified RCA thru the Valley Training Center.



BENJAMIN FAVELA/VALLEY STAR

SONGBIRD - Soprano Rhonda Dillon, right, sings various musical pieces during her performance Thursday in the Music Recital Hall. Paul Floyd, left, provides piano accompaniment.

LIFE, LOVE AND LOSS; OPERA

BY HARRIET STEINBERG
STAFF WRITER

Rhonda Dillon, soprano, and Paul Floyd Dillon, pianist, delighted their audience as they played the last beautiful notes of the fall 2003 Thursday morning concert series. The series will resume in the spring.

"Rhonda Dillon sang very passionately and her movements were very emotional as she was telling a story with her voice," music student Sal Castellanos said. "It's amazing the many ways of storytelling. Telling through music is very compelling."

The pair executed with ease the beautiful melody of Sigmund Romberg "One Kiss" from New Moon.

Dillon looked stunning in her red dress and red shoes as she sang love songs of sorrow and pain in German and in Spanish. The words to these songs were projected in English on a screen. "This is like going to an opera where they have subtitles," said Diane Wintrob, music department chair.

Robyn Rose said that she appreciated the translation on the projection screen, "but it was a slight distraction." Rose thought Dillon had great poise and a beautiful voice. "I wish I could sing some of those notes," Rose said.

Dillon has performed operas in Los Angeles, Palm Springs and New York and said that the Puccini roles were among her favorites. She played "Carlotta" and "Madame Giry" in the New York production of "Phantom of the Opera." Her voice can be heard on the soundtracks of several movies, including "Empire of the Sun," "Burglar" and "Like Father, Like Son."

"She has great tones, graceful composure, and was very interesting," math student Robin Cline said.

Pianist Paul Floyd Dillon is a vocal coach, musician and recitalist. He is currently an assistant conductor for Los Angeles Opera and has served in a similar capacity at the Santa Fe Opera.

Good Eating Habits Affect Student Performance, Mood

• Caffeine and sugary foods aren't good for you.

By LAGINA PHILLIPS
STAFF WRITER

The couple extra minutes it takes to find something healthier to eat may affect your grades; sugary foods make it hard to concentrate.

"The effects of not eating healthy are weight gain and diabetes among other things," says Brandy Rodriguez, medical assistant at the student health center. "[There are] different fruits and vegetables out there to help fight cancer before you get it."

Eating sugary foods can make it hard to pay attention, which can result in poor performance in class. Christine Farlow, author of "Healthy Eating," suggests replacing unhealthy snacks such as chips and soda with healthier ones such as fruits and water.

Farlow suggests working out a plan for healthy eating that will last a lifetime opposed to going on a diet.

Eating healthier gives the body more energy and helps the mind think clearly in addition to making the body look and feel better. Eating healthy also strengthens the immune system to fight off sickness.

"You see a lot of students drinking coffee and caffeine when they're up late cramming, which works for the moment but affects you negatively later," Rodriguez said.

Caffeine, like nicotine and alcohol, is a mood-affecting drug and lasts six to eight hours before wearing off.

"Unhealthy foods with a lot of sugar brings your energy up, then you come crashing down; with healthy food it's a natural energy," student Albina de Santiago said.

A body uses the vitamins obtained with healthy eating to prevent fatigue and irritability, effects of eating too many carbohydrates, according to Rodriguez.

"When I eat a good meal I feel that I'm more energetic and not so tired," liberal studies student Elizabeth Gonzalez said.

The healthiest foods are fresh, raw organic foods because they aren't contaminated with pesticides and aren't irradiated or genetically engineered, though the protein in meat is also essential for cell growth, according to the Food Standard Agency.

Poor diets are typically high in calories and fats, and too low in fruits and vegetables — problems associated with certain chronic diseases such as coronary disease, cancer, stroke and obesity, according to "On the Road to Better Nutrition," by Eileen Kennedy, James Blaylock and Betsey Kuhn.

"Most of the time I bring my own food, it saves money" broadcasting student Mary Bedrossian said. "Most of the food's expensive here; it's hard for people to buy their food here."

Besides for bringing food to school, students can choose an off-campus eatery.

Subway, located at the corner of Burbank and Fulton, has healthy options such as salads and sandwiches, "During lunch time we get 30 to 40 college students" Subway sandwich artist Alex Guzman said. "I'd say 20 to 25 percent of our customers are from the college."

Eating healthy takes a little extra time and preparation, though skipping breakfast once in a while is OK, but it shouldn't be a habit because eating in the morning kick starts the body's metabolism for the day, according to Rodriguez.

'Trees' continued from page 2

has been contracted through, which will then turn it over to the URS Corporation overseeing bond-project work at Valley.

The majority of Valley's trees were planted around the college's beginning in the '40s, including species native to South America, Africa, Europe, Asia and Australia scattered in the park-like setting. "The entire campus is man-made," Mahoney said, "considering the desert environment."

Many tulip trees along college road south will also require replacement; some have heart-rot, compromising their stability. Rodents in the trees, mainly squirrels, also damage the trees by stripping bark off the limbs, killing them.

Mahoney will make recommendations, but the ultimate decisions will be left up to members at URS and a campus committee.

Safety is the primary concern in the assessment, then the health of the environment and aesthetics will be taken into consideration for Valley's unique foliage.

"Here you've got mostly old ones and they're struggling," Mahoney said, referring to hundreds of Valley's trees. "Ideally we should have young, middle-aged and old trees," Mahoney said, describing a community similar to that of humanity. "If all of your plants are the same age they're all going to die at the same time."

Continuing with the human parallel, Mahoney said, "A young person needs less care than an older person. They're born, they live and they die."

The maintenance should focus on conservation of space rather than preservation of aging trees and an ecologically effective system. After assessing the condition of the entire body of

Valley's foliage, a decision about long-term management must be made, according to Mahoney. "The idea is to try to conserve the space," Mahoney said; if one tree is removed another should be planted in its place. "Reforestation is an element of this project."

Improperly planted trees in unhealthy soil, with the stake on the wrong side or planted too deeply will not survive. "Some trees on campus were planted improperly," Mahoney said, pointing out several magnolias on the east side of College Road South. "There's a certain thing about the way a tree is planted that cause problems later in life."

The process of replacing trees can be expensive, Mahoney said, but added that it's the "perfect way to make sure [the planting's] done in the best way possible."

URS, which is overseeing

bond-funded construction and renovations, has selected architects for two projects. Hardy Holtzman Pfeiffer and Associates will kick off design efforts for the library this week, as will Steven Erlich Architects for the media arts building. The design phase will continue for about a year.

Other work includes a value engineering session begun last month that will assess building and cost savings options for the allied health sciences, and design for renovations to foreign language, behavioral sciences and the second floor of the campus center. URS has also selected an architect to conduct programming for the arts renovation project, to include the music, arts and theater arts buildings, is considering two consultants for a foodservice study and will begin design for exterior improvements including signage, courtyards and landscaping in January.

'Ritter' continued from page 1

percent certainty of how much they produced and what transpired. But there is still a level of uncertainty because we don't have all the facts available to us that are verifiable.

What we do know about the biological weapons sphere, though, is that whatever the Iraqis produced cannot be viable today. So that 90 to 95 percent figure is misleading, because what we do know is that 100 percent of the agent produced by Iraq is no longer viable. It only has a shelf life of three years. The same holds true in the chemical weapons field.

VS: In terms of the current situation in Iraq, do you have any ideas about what our exit strategy should be?

SR: Get out of Iraq. We don't belong there; we have no right to be there. When I say get out of Iraq, I mean get out unilaterally. We can still maintain U.S. troops in Iraq, but under a United Nations umbrella. We have to seek the transfer, in as short a

period as possible, of political and military control back to the people of Iraq, even if their concept is not a democratic one.

We get out militarily, we stay economically. Iraq needs tremendous help in getting their oil fields refurbished — and we need their oil. The longer we stay in Iraq, the more we'll drive them towards Islamic fundamentalism. And not Shia, but Wahabism. Then we'll only make matters worse.

The bottom line is: we've lost the war in Iraq. I think we have to accept that. We cannot win this war along the conditions we established for victory: getting rid of Saddam, establishing a democracy, etc. We need to mitigate our defeat, and I think the best way to do that is to get out of Iraq and leave it in the hands of those who will govern it with some sense of stability, who will steer Iraq economically toward the West.

VS: In promoting your book, "Frontier Justice," around the



PHOTO COURTESY OF MARLENE SHARE

AN INSPECTOR CALLS - Former U.N. weapons inspector Scott Ritter fear and ignorance of the people to pursue a policy that is based on a foundation of lies.

To be good citizens, we have to be informed citizens. You have to get out there and get the data necessary to make sound, articulate decisions.

For an extended version of this interview please www.lavalleystar.com. For tickets and information for Scott Ritter's speaking engagement at the VCJCC at 13164 Burbank Blvd. in Sherman Oaks, call (818) 786-6310.

We have a situation where the president has exploited the

country, you seem to be making a special effort to speak with students. What is the message you're trying to transmit, especially to young people?

SR: The most important message is about the inherent responsibilities we all have as citizens, to be involved. I use the case study of Iraq as a case study of the absolute failure of the American people as collective group of citizens to function properly.

We have a situation where the president has exploited the

'Numbers' continued from page 1

increase in class size. The wait list for classes are reflective of the usual impacts that affect in particular math, English, child development and science courses, according to a localized survey by the Chancellor's office. It also stated that the college will continue at calendar patterns, course offerings, blocking of classes, afternoon and weekend offering and adjust our class and programs to maximize what we offer.

California's Department of Finance growth projections made before the system's constrictions and budget cuts shows an enrollment gap of approximately 171,000 students statewide.

Patrick Perry, vice chancellor

for technology, research and information systems stated that while some students may have been affected by fee increases, the actual impact of the \$7 per unit increase can't be determined until colleges submit complete end-of-term data for analysis.

"What we know for sure is that reduction in the number of course section offerings driven by budget factors is driving down enrollment," Perry said.

Nussbaum called on California leaders including Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger to ensure that the community colleges receive the share of Proposition 98 funding promised in state law.

PACE Program Airs on Cable

• Valley's "Excellence in Education" broadcast on local cable access channels.

By SUSAN MALTRY
STAFF WRITER

As students struggle to keep their day jobs while attending the classes they need, Valley College strives to reach them with information about a unique program available on campus, PACE.

Valley's Program for Accelerated College Education is now being highlighted on television channels 10 and 36 in a program entitled "Excellence in Education."

"This program gives an inside look into some of the

exciting career opportunities available at community colleges," said host Cindy Sardo, Valley's director of public relations, in a recent production of the cable show.

"If you want a new career or you want to enhance your skills but you have to work during the day, Valley has an accelerated education program designed specifically for working adults," she explained. As the show host, Sardo interviews members of a

panel made up of Valley faculty and PACE graduate students.

"PACE is designed specifically for working adults. The course has been accelerated and condensed from 16 weeks into 8 weeks," said panel member Robert Parker, director of PACE at Valley. PACE students attend classes at night and on Saturdays, grouped together in "tracks" according to their major.

"Students in the health sci-

See PACE page 8

'Puente' continued from page 1

Gonzales told attendees that all of these issues affect them here as well, illustrating a parallel between rich growers and low-income pickers in the orange groves and the disparity between homes that immigrant housekeepers live in and the Beverly Hills mansions they clean.

"Average people like us, we need to be the ones who turn the wheel," Gonzales said, urging students to have an awareness of foreign policy and support groups like Faramundo Marti National Liberation Front, which is trying to change social and economic policies in El Salvador.

Gusmao met Gonzales at a conference for Puente colleges at USC. She and Valley students were moved by his speech and asked him to speak at Valley.

"I thought he was very powerful," Gusmao said. "The wonderful thing is that he is a product of Puente from Riverside Community College." Gonzales transferred to UCLA, attended Stanford for his masters and returned to UCLA for his Ph.D after graduating high school with a 1.7 GPA. He hopes to teach at a research institution and write about contemporary

Chicano and Latino politics.

"I'm Mexican-American and most of the people I know that are of Latin descent never really had a college education and had information to inform me about the world and I never really knew or really cared as much as to what happened to other Latin Americans and in other countries," student Hector Mendoza said. "He's informing all of us of what's happening in the world. I really admire that he wants to make a difference. It really inspires me that somebody of my nationality cares." Mendoza plans to transfer to study kinesiology.

In response to Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger's proposal to eliminate \$24 million for outreach programs like Puente Gonzales said, "It reveals a lot about Arnold's political alliances with the right-wing California Republican party and its smaller party organizations, some of which are here in the valley. These organizations have a real anti-immigrant agenda and are also hostile to poor people. It reveals their insensitivity towards the issues facing poor people, immigrants in particular, and reveals their corporate agenda. It's unjust."

'Foster' continued from page 2

care system that has raised them and to have a useful life in the community at large.

"I don't think a lot of youths realize what kind of supports are out there and they don't take advantage of them," Barnes said. "It's amazing how someone will cut out their time for you and I don't think a lot of college students realize that."

One doesn't have to listen to Barnes for long in order to realize how much the mentor pilot program has helped to instill in her a great sense of confidence, which she demonstrated while giving a brief overview of the program at the monthly open house held in October by the program directors, Bonnie Montes, Berkeley Harris and Dr. Davis Coghill.

"She's still working, as well as getting ready for her performance with a prestigious women's choir at Mt. SAC next Saturday night," Director Harris said. "Naomi is focused, and is using the "Transitions Framework" of the four P's to advance her new life beginnings: Having a Purpose, a Picture, a Plan and a Part to Play."

Barnes is passionate in her delivery and endorses the program wholeheartedly. She never says that it's easy to tackle the problems that will assuredly rise along the way, but in Building 31 on the Mt. SAC campus where the program resides she finds the strength to continue to learn the lessons necessary to survive and to help others.

Thus far, 96 percent of the foster youth participating in the Peer Mentoring program have stayed in college. Some have gone on to four-year universities. For more information contact the Community College Foundation at www.communitycollege.org.

'Budget' continued from page 1

Associated Student Union members. "Let them know their tax-paying public is not satisfied with the way they treat community colleges. All politics are personal, there's nothing more personal in your lives right now than getting through college."

Lubow, a Glendale College American history professor, was hired by the American Federation of Teachers union to help organize Los Angeles Community College District students into a political activism machine aiming to "prioritize community colleges in the eyes of state legislators."

Lubow's experience in motivating activism includes presenting speakers for Glendale College students, including notable union figures Dolores Huerta, co-founder of the United Farm Workers Union and Maria Elena Durazo, field worker-turned-vice president of a hotel workers union.

Valley's ASU Student and Social Affairs Commissioner Jessie Salas and ICC Senate Representative Oleg Kagan spoke about last year's winter intercessions, citing the fact that many of

the other LACCD colleges canceled theirs, forcing professors to turn away hopeful students. Some major courses were limited to only one day section and one night section.

"Does Arnold understand how many people need to take Math 115?" Salas said. Students from high school want to come to Valley but can't."

Lubow stressed that to have an impact others beside the student government must get involved. The entire student body, faculty, staff, the administration, the community and alumni must all be organized to join in an effort to prevent anymore budget cuts, she said.

"Last spring, several administrators, including yours truly, marched in downtown Los Angeles," said Valley President Tyree Wieder. Another rally is planned for Sacramento in March.

"It takes saturation," Lubow said. "By the time March comes around there should be very few people on campus who have not seen something on bulletin boards, in classrooms, in the cafeteria."

The group, including Student Services Vice President Yasmin Delahoussaye and Associate Dean Sherri Rodriguez, agreed to meet again after the holidays to discuss the governor's budget vote and plan its next move. The governor must sign the new budget into law by Jan. 10.

There is a possibility that Congress may be proposing a bill that would punish states that cut funding for education, according to ASU President James Brevard. Many hope that Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger, who learned English at Santa Monica College, might be sympathetic to the plight of community colleges.

Valley was one of the leading schools last year in fighting budget cuts, according to Lubow.

"They were polite to us but when students spoke, their ears perked up and they were very interested in what you had to say," said Joanne Waddell, physical education professor and AFT Valley Chapter president, about her past experiences meeting with Sacramento legislators. "You guys can move the world. You have no idea how much power you have."

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'Nurses' continued from page 2

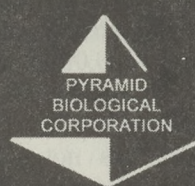
repeating course work once they arrive in the California State University system.

"It's like the chicken and the egg," said Glenda Canfield, policy director for Service Employees International Union's Nurse Alliance. "They want the nurses to come first, but the nurses won't come back until the conditions get better."

Nursing officials said there is no quick solution to the nursing crisis.

"Until there is adequate staffing and an increase in the nurse-to-patient ratio, the problem will not be resolved, these conditions will continue to exist," said Charles Idelson, spokesperson for the California Nurses Association.

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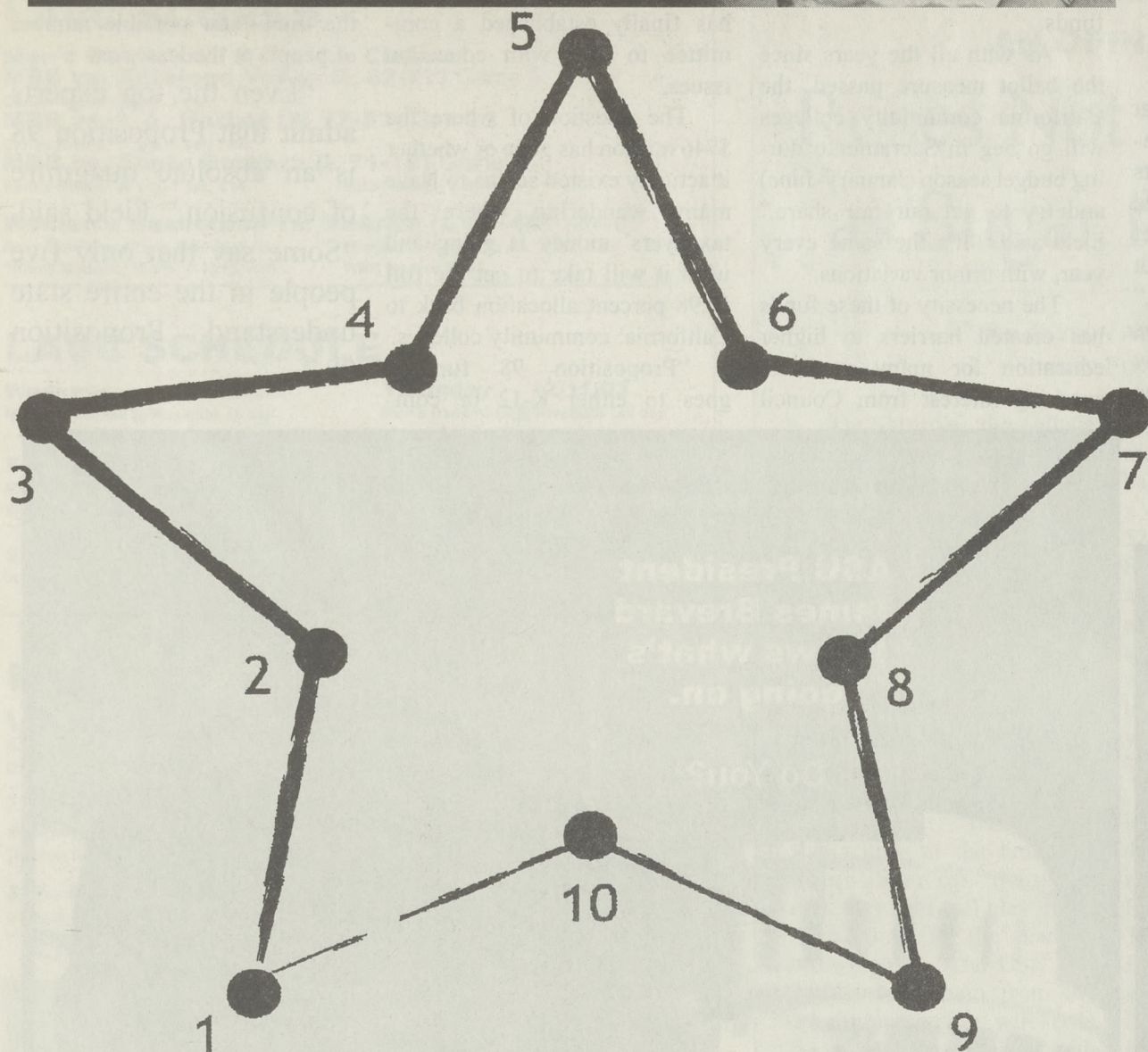
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Sarah Brady and the War at Home

■ An interview with a leading gun control advocate on the 10th anniversary of the Brady Bill's passage.

By MICHAEL ORDOÑA
OPINION EDITOR

Nov. 30 marked the 10th anniversary of the passage of the Brady Bill, a federal law that requires a five-day waiting period and background checks on handgun purchases. The landmark legislation has played a prominent role in reducing gun violence in the United States by denying sales to more than a million prohibited users such as convicted felons. The bill was named for former Reagan administration Press Secretary James Brady, who was seriously wounded along with two secret service agents in John Hinckley's attack on the president in 1981.

After Brady's recovery, he and his wife Sarah became actively involved in the gun control movement. Sarah Brady is the chair of two of the country's leading gun control organizations, The Brady Center to Prevent Gun Violence and The Brady Campaign to Prevent Gun Violence. She was diagnosed with lung cancer several years ago, but continues to lead the fight for what she calls "sensible gun laws."

Shortly before the anniversary celebration in Washington, D.C., featuring such luminaries as President Bill Clinton and Sam Donaldson, Sarah Brady spoke on the phone with The Valley Star's Opinion Editor, Michael Ordoña, about the state of gun control today.

THE VALLEY STAR: Why did the Brady Law take seven years to pass?

SARAH BRADY: We were a very small lobby and we were fighting the National Rifle Association. They always outspent us 10-to-1, so we knew we

couldn't do it by money. We had to do it by growing our forces and bringing in other groups to work with us.

The single most important was law enforcement. We had all 12 of the top law enforcement organizations join together and work with us. Then we just worked to bring in new groups to help. We had every major national church organization as an ally. We had the AMA, the ABA, the pediatricians, the nurses' associations [and many others]. So even though we didn't have the



PHOTO COURTESY OF
WWW.BRADYCENTER.ORG

money, we had all the allies.

VS: Department of Justice statistics show that deaths by gunfire fell by 27 percent in the first eight years of the Brady Law. Do you think other factors such as the improved economy had an impact on reduced gun violence over that time?

SB: I think you'd need a criminologist to answer that question. The interesting fact, though, is that while violence has gone down considerably since the Brady Law was passed, gun violence has gone down almost twice as fast. So obviously the Brady Law, in reducing the accessibility to criminals, helped contribute immensely. I think

other things contributed as well: the assault weapons ban, more cops on the street ...

VS: Do you think it takes tragedies such as the shooting of your husband and President Reagan, the California schoolyard massacre and Columbine to mobilize legislators and voters to take action?

SB: I think it's cyclical, just like all of politics is cyclical. The problems with guns were so overwhelming in the '70s and '80s. At first in the '80s, legislators would feel a little nervous about doing anything about it. But the worse it got, and the more the statistics came in ... The CDC never had a really true, good count of gun deaths all over the country, because they weren't required to be reported. It took people really getting involved and making an issue, and that's not always easy. You have to have a problem, and then you have say, "How do we solve it? What is the simplest thing we can do?"

VS: What is the center's relationship with the current administration?

SB: We don't have a very good one. I don't think [Bush is] very anxious to do anything. The only thing he has said, and I'd like to hold him to it, is that he would sign the renewal of the assault weapons ban.

VS: If it gets to him.

SB: And he's not doing anything to see that it gets to him. I mean, as the titular leader of the party, when he wants something he goes to the party and gets it. He knows how to twist arms. So I think we need to hold his feet to the fire.

For an extended version of this interview please
www.lavalleystar.com.

Committee Discusses Cafeteria, Smoking Policy

■ Students and faculty review options to improve cafeteria performance and punish smoking offenders.

By CAROL MORALES
STAFF WRITER

More than a dozen students attended the Space and Work Committee meeting Thursday to voice their concerns on plans to demolish the cafeteria and on enforcement of Valley College's smoking policy.

Students lighting up in "No Smoking" areas will now face suspension, while the cafeteria faces impending closure.

The no-smoking policy and signs at Valley have been taken lightly by many students who smoke. Student Maria Hija, who suffers from asthma and diabetes, complained to the committee of being forced to walk through clouds of smoke on campus.

"I don't want to die from second-hand smoke," Hija said. "I have several times tried to get the sheriffs to do something about it, but they never do."

One committee member explained that the Sheriff's Department has never been allowed to arrest anyone for smoking on campus; they could only issue warnings. However, there was no penalty enforceable even if offenders continually ignored the warnings. Under the new policy, repeat offenders may incur suspensions.

According to Jessie Alas, ASU commissioner of students and social services, the students aren't really aware of the areas in which smoking is allowed.

The committee is working on more effective signage for areas of campus where students can light up without putting others' health at risk.

The issue of the cafeteria's closure due to the construction of the new library also received much attention. Unless usage of the cafeteria increases, the closure may be permanent. Of the 20,000 students that attend Valley, only 1,000 actually use the facility.

"The cafeteria has never been able to support itself; the college has always had to intervene. Last year alone it lost \$140,000," said Raul Gonzalez, associate dean of Administrative Services.

The school does not want to close it completely, but rather improve its profitability, according to Tom Jacobsmeier, vice president of Administrative Services.

"The cafeteria isn't equipped with the right amount of manpower," business student Amador Plascencia said. "Most students don't have a lot of time between classes to wait in long lines for a semi-OK meal."

All the students at the meeting agreed that if the cafeteria had a greater variety of healthier, less pricey foods and faster service, they would purchase more.

"What students are looking for is to be able to get in, get out and eat remotely healthily," said Jonathan Wayne Lewis, ASU chief justice. "The cafeteria

should be open from 7 a.m. to 1 p.m. and then reopened from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. so that it can better accommodate most of the student population."

Gonzalez has developed the "Hot Food Line," now offered in the cafeteria. It offers a complete meal: an entrée, a roll or biscuit and two sides for \$5.50.

"Personally, I missed that kind of dining and wanted to bring something new to the students to see how they would react to it," Gonzalez said. "It has been really popular since we started."

After Vice President of Student Services Yasmin Delahoussaye suggested that the students needed to mobilize in order to get the changes they want, ASU Commissioner of Political Affairs Igor Kagan made a motion to form a cafeteria committee, a sub-committee of the Space and Work Committee. The new committee would allow students to voice their concerns regarding the cafeteria. Gonzalez volunteered to be the administrator in charge of overseeing the subcommittee.

Although the cafeteria doesn't make any profit for the college, the committee is willing to work with the students to reopen it once it is moved from its current site.

To join the committee or obtain information, contact the ASU in CC104.

'Council' continued from page 1

ommending that all community college fee increases go directly to the colleges, not to the general fund."

Chancellor Mark Drummond and trustees Mona Field, Warren T. Furutani and Stacey McMullen made a presentation to the committee about the impact of the class cuts and fee increases on their constituents.

Field said that each year the fight continues with K-12 for community colleges to get their fair share of Proposition 98 funds.

"As with all the years since the ballot measure passed, the California community colleges will go beg in Sacramento during budget season (January-June) and try to get our fair share," Field said. "It's the same every year, with minor variations."

The necessity of these funds has created barriers to higher education for many students, sparking interest from Council

members who agree that post-secondary education needs to be a reachable goal for all citizens throughout Los Angeles.

Committee members Dennis Zine and Antonio Villaraigosa, who both attended community colleges, are supporting this resolution and hope to present it to the full council for approval at a future council meeting.

"The Council needs to stand up and speak out against community college cuts," Villaraigosa said. "I'm glad the City Council has finally established a committee to deal with education issues."

The question of where the \$746 million has gone or whether it actually existed seems to leave many wondering where the taxpayers' money is going and what it will take to get the full 10.98 percent allocation back to California's community colleges.

"Proposition 98 funding goes to either K-12 or com-

munity colleges," Martin said. "If community colleges didn't get the full percentage, it was shifted to K-12. That's the only other place they can legally shift the money."

Valley College Administrative Analyst Duane Martin said politicians decided back in 1988 that "this was how it was going to be and they should keep their promise." Martin added that community colleges are a skeleton crew providing the maximum possible service for the maximum possible number of people at the least cost.

"Even the top experts admit that Proposition 98 is an absolute quagmire of confusion," Field said. "Some say that only five people in the entire state understand Proposition 98."

'Clubs' continued from page 2

of the day pumping up the jam in Monarch Square for students to enjoy.

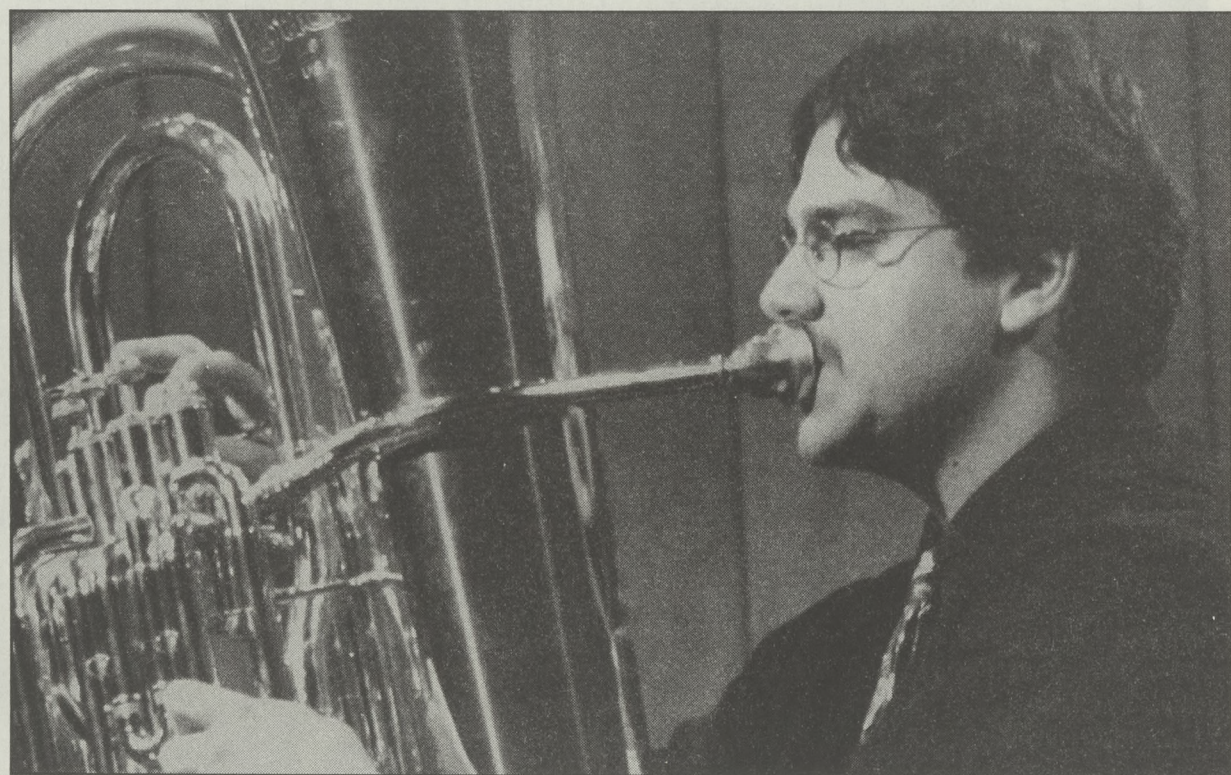
The festivities continued until 9 p.m., giving evening students the opportunity to enjoy the campus activities intended to promote involvement in campus clubs, organizations and student government.

Besides raising funds for Southern California wildfire victims, campus clubs also

sponsored food drives to benefit local food banks and book drives promoting literacy at local children's hospitals.

The Associated Student Union also came out to participate in the fun and represent their organization. Igor Kagan, commissioner of political affairs, explained that it's important to get students interested in campus activities. "Today is the first time that ASU set up a table at

an event and were represented at Club Day. Hopefully we'll continue to be represented at events because we need to get people involved in fighting the budget cuts and push information about different events and activities," Kagan said. "Club day is always good. It's great to see so many students come out and enjoy the positive atmosphere and good food."



TAMMY ABBOTT/ VALLEY STAR

TUBA SOLO- Student Larry Gilman gets a chance to woo the audience with "Sunrise, Sunset" from Fiddler on the Roof during the Music Performance Final Concert Dec. 2.

'PACE' continued from page 2

ence track go to class Thursday nights and on Saturday, while students in the business track attend on Tuesday and Saturday," Parker explained.

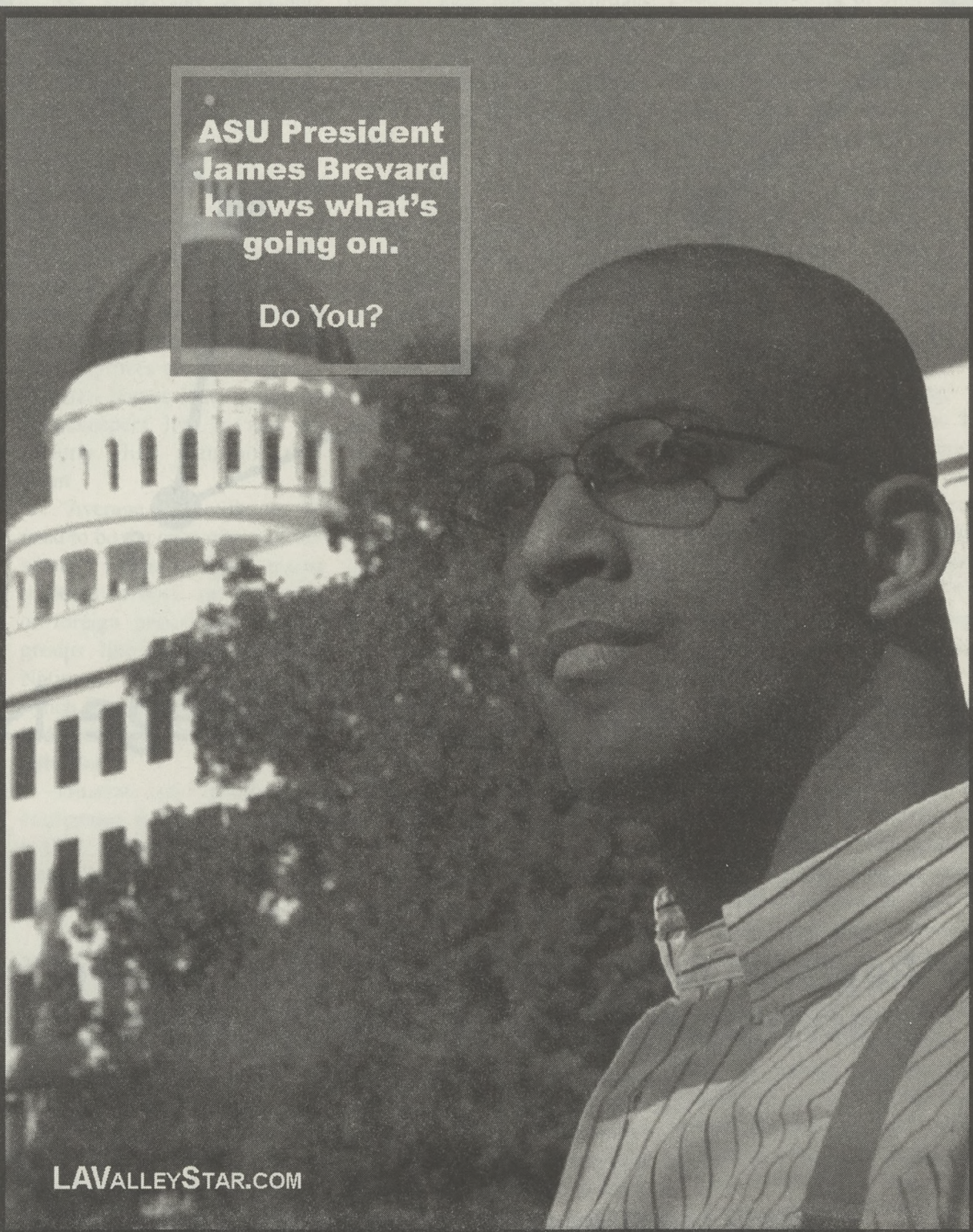
Sam Harris, former Valley student and PACE graduate also spoke on the show. "When I was a student at Valley and I found PACE I said 'Hey, this program works for me.' I don't have to be in class four or five days a week. I can go one day a week and on

a Saturday and that can also help me spend time with my family," Harris said.

"Although many students attend PACE classes as a convenient means to supplement their educational goals at Valley, its primary purpose is as a complete program designed for working students who need to earn a degree in an alternate format," said Neil Roberts, PACE and Weekend College counselor.

It's a good idea for students who have a clearly established educational goal in mind to look into this program carefully, Roberts said, but cautions that it is not for everyone. "PACE works extremely well for some students and not for others."

Contact the PACE office at CC215 or call (818) 947-2455 for more information or a video cassette of the cable show.



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WSC WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

Lady Monarchs Blow Late Lead

■ Ladies lose control of a five-point halftime lead and fall by two in Northern California.

By BOB TEICHMANN
STAFF WRITER

VISALIA — The first game back for Valley College forward Syreeta Coleman was bittersweet as the Lady Monarchs (5-5) lost 46-44 against the DeAnza Dons (2-2) Thursday at Sequoias.

"I came out there with first-game jitters," Coleman said. "But to lose, that hurts."

Coleman returned after missing the first two weeks due to a family emergency in Chicago. She came on strong with 10 points, seven assists, four steals and four rebounds.

"She had all the jets on," head coach Mike Muro said. "Without her, it wouldn't have been close."

DeAnza's defense, with three starters taller than six feet, held the Monarchs to 0-of-5 shooting in the first four minutes of the game, blocking three shots.

Monarch guard Tiffany Hamilton broke the scoring drought by shooting 1-of-2 from the free throw line. Valley's scoring for the next five minutes came from the line.

The Monarchs didn't score a field goal until nine minutes into the game when guard Erika Hamilton landed a 10-

foot jumper off an assist from guard Roxy Quintero.

"I like passing the ball," Quintero said. "My main goal is to assist the team in any way I can. They've given me the ball many times, so it's good to return the favor."

The Monarchs fought back to take the lead with seven minutes left in the first half on a bounce pass from Tiffany Hamilton to Coleman.

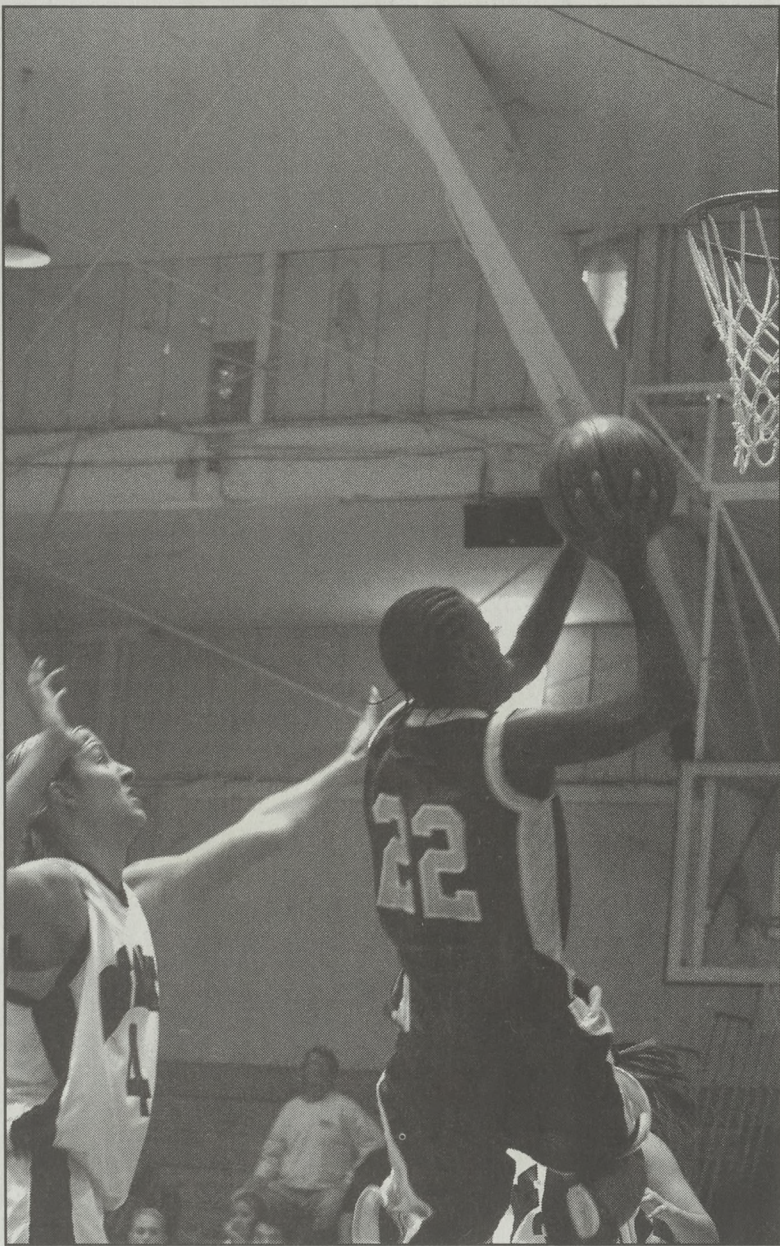
DeAnza sent Valley to the line three times in the final minute of the half. The Monarchs converted 3-of-6, giving them a 23-18 halftime lead.

The second half was a different story for Valley. They committed seven fouls, two of which were charges called against center Tiffany Maddox.

Despite the charges, Maddox finished with 10 points and four rebounds.

Valley's other center, Kareemah Bernard, also got into foul trouble. Bernard fouled out with six minutes left in the game.

DeAnza bagged the game over the last five minutes as the Monarchs again failed to make a field goal. Valley had five turnovers in the last three minutes and missed two last-second shots.



JORDAN DINAPOLI/VALLEY STAR

TO THE HOLE - Guard Syreeta Coleman made a strong return to the Lady Monarchs despite a close loss to the DeAnza Dons Dec. 4. Coleman had 10 points, seven assists and four steals.

22 - Syreeta Coleman
10 pts, 7 ast, 4 stl, 4 rb

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL
Los Angeles Valley College
Western State Conference
Upcoming Schedule

Opponent	Date	Time
@ Moorpark.	12/12-14	tba
@ Ant. Valley	12/18-20	tba
Canyons	1/7	5:30 p.m.
Citrus	1/9	5:30 p.m.
@ Glendale	1/14	5:30 p.m.
@ Bakersfield	1/16	5:30 p.m.
West L.A.	1/21	5:30 p.m.
B Y E	1/23	
Santa Monica	1/28	5:30 p.m.
@ Canyons	1/30	5:30 p.m.
@ Citrus	2/4	5:30 p.m.
Glendale	2/5	5:30 p.m.
@ Ventura	2/7	7 p.m.
Bakersfield	2/11	5:30 p.m.
@ West L.A.	2/13	5:30 p.m.
B Y E	2/18	
@ SMC	2/20	5:30 p.m.
Reg. Playoffs	2/27	tba
Reg. Playoffs	3/2	tba
CA Reg. Finals	3/5	tba
CA Final Four	2/12	tba
@ UCSD		

LAVC SCORES

Men's Basketball @ Condor Classic
MBB vs. Antelope Valley (L 62-77) Game 1

Carlos Rivers: 23 pts, 5 ast

MBB vs. L.A. Harbor (W 72-53) Game 2

Carlos Rivers: 17 pts, 5 ast, 3 stl

MBB vs. Santa Barbara (L 71-79) Game 3

Carlos Rivers: 22 pts, 7 ast, 4 stl

MBB Record: 2-4

Women's Basketball vs. DeAnza (L 44-46) 12/4/03

Roxy Quintero: 12 pts, 5-10 fg, 5 rb

Tiffany Maddox: 10 pts, 4-13 fg, 4 rb

Syreeta Coleman: 10 pts, 7 ast, 4 stl

WBB Record: 5-5

LAVC SCHEDULE

Wednesday 12-10/03
Men's Basketball @ Riverside all day

Thursday 12/11/03
Men's Basketball @ Riverside all day

Friday 12/12/03
Men's Basketball @ Riverside all day
Women's Basketball @ Moorpark all day

Saturday 12/13/03
Men's Basketball @ Riverside all day
Women's Basketball @ Moorpark all day

Sunday 12/14/03
Women's Basketball @ Moorpark all day

Tuesday 12/16/03
No Scheduled Games

PRO SCORES

L.A. Lakers vs. Utah Jazz (W 94-92) 12/7/03

Shaquille O'Neal: 19 pts, 15 rb, 8 ast

Gary Payton: 15 pts, 3-4 ft, 7 ast

Kobe Bryant: 19 pts, 9-10 ft, 6 rb

LAL Record: 17-3 (1st West. Conf.)

L.A. Clippers vs. Min. Timberwolves (L 94-96) 12/7/03

Marko Jaric: 18 pts, 2-2 ft, 3 rb

Quentin Richardson: 14 pts, 3-3 3p, 9 rb

Corey Maggette: 26 pts, 10-12 ft, 8 rb

LAC Record: 6-10

L.A. Kings @ Detroit Redwings (L 2-3 OT) 12/8/03

GOALS: LAK - Straka, Cammalleri

LAK Record: 14-3-1-2

Questions? Comments? Suggestions?

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IN THEIR OWN WORDS

"After we got our lead, we stopped. We got complacent and just stopped playing."

Mike Muro,
Women's basketball coach,
about how the team lost a five-point halftime lead to lose by two Thursday at Sequoias.

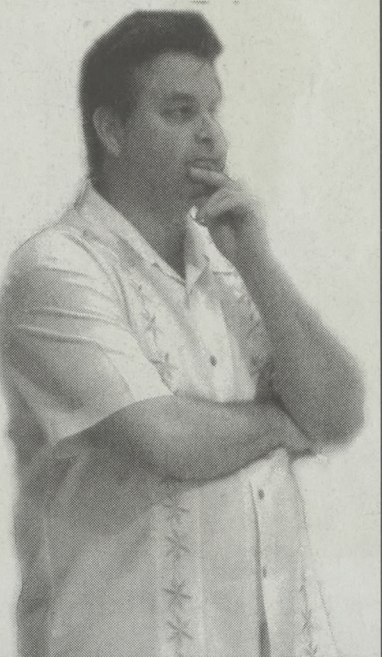


Photo by Jordan DiNapoli

AN OPINION

Roses Not as Sweet as Sugar for USC

By JAYSON ADDCOX
SPORTS EDITOR

On Saturday, the college football world witnessed the biggest upset of the season when No. 15 Kansas State crushed No. 1 Oklahoma, 35-7. On Sunday, the college football world witnessed the worst decision by the Bowl Championship Series panel in its controversial six-year history. Oklahoma and Louisiana State will play in the national championship game, not USC.

Despite Oklahoma's shellacking at the hands of Kansas State over the weekend, they will still play in the Sugar Bowl for the championship game. And USC (11-1), the lone team from the west in contention, will settle for the No.1 ranking in both coaches' polls, but will not participate in the National Championship game.

How do you explain that to the average fan? The number one team in the nation according to human beings is not competing for the national title — What a sham.

The LSU Tigers (12-1) finished the season strong, earning a spot in the Sugar Bowl with a victory over the No.5 Georgia, on Saturday. Oklahoma, on the other hand, finished the season with a loss. Excuse me, they got their rear ends handed to them.

National Championship-caliber teams rarely lose, let alone get stomped on like the Sooners did.

USC has won 19 out of their last 20 games dating back to last year, and eight in a row, including Saturday's 52-28 victory over Oregon State. Their lone defeat came at UC Berkeley in overtime early in the season. Since that loss they've beaten every team they've played by an average of 26.9 points, yet they will sit this one out. What is the BCS is thinking?

Instead, USC will play in the Rose Bowl against No. 4 Michigan. USC is ranked No. 1 in both the Associated Press writers' and the USA Today/ESPN coaches' polls. If the Trojans win, they will share the title with the Sugar Bowl winner, yielding two National Champions. The BCS was created in 1998 to avoid this exact situation.

"Obviously, there's some kind of a problem, because the No.1 team in the country is not playing in that game," USC coach Pete Carroll said.

The Trojans received a royal snubbing by the BCS and their fans a big slap in the face. The BCS is three for six in creating controversy.

In 2000 the system screwed Miami, and in 2001 both Colorado and Oregon felt the wrath of the user-unfriendly BCS computer polls. The good news is the Trojans are still in the running for the championship, the bad news is that the BCS is under contract until the 2006.

MEN'S BASKETBALL

Los Angeles Valley College
Western State Conference
Upcoming Schedule

Opponent	Date	Time
@ Riverside	12/10-13	tba
@ Pasadena	12/17-19	tba
@ Santa Ana	12/27-29	tba
@ L.A. Pierce	1/3	7 p.m.
Canyons	1/7	7:30 p.m.
Citrus	1/9	7:30 p.m.
@ Glendale	1/14	7:30 p.m.
@ Bakersfield	1/16	7:30 p.m.
West L.A.	1/21	7:30 p.m.
B Y E	1/23	7:30 p.m.
Santa Monica	1/28	7:30 p.m.
@ Canyons	1/30	7:30 p.m.
@ Citrus	2/4	7:30 p.m.
Glendale	2/6	7:30 p.m.
Bakersfield	2/11	7:30 p.m.
@ West L.A.	2/13	7:30 p.m.
B Y E	2/18	7:30 p.m.
@ SMC	2/20	7:30 p.m.
Reg. Playoffs	2/27	tba
Reg. Playoffs	3/3	tba
Reg. Finals	3/6	tba
State Finals	3/13	tba
@ UCSD		

OFFICIAL STATS
WESTERN STATE
CONFERENCE

WSC Men's Basketball
Individual Scoring

1. Earnest Williams (Moorpark)
13-33 fg 39.4% 23.0 ppg
2. Carlton Spencer (Canyons)
29-59 fg 49.2% 19.3 ppg
3. Andrew Bruckner (Canyons)
30-61 fg 49.2% 19.0 ppg
4. Sylvester Allison (L.A. Pierce)
72 pts 18 ppg 32 high
5. Carlos Rivers (L.A. Valley)
33-67 fg 49.3% 17.2 ppg
6. James Hudson (Oxnard)
40-66 fg 60.6% 16.0 ppg
7. Durwin Williams (Glendale)
27-46 fg 59.3% 15.4 ppg
8. Mike Green (Cuesta)
11-17 fg 87.6% 15.2 ppg
9. Mark Felder (Glendale)
26-45 fg 57.8% 15.2 ppg
10. Kevin Rogers (Hancock)
32-79 fg 40.5% 15.0 ppg

NOTES

NBA
Los Angeles Laker center Shaquille O'Neal was named Western Conference Player of the Week Monday. O'Neal averaged 19.7 ppg and a league-high 16.7 rebounds.

NBA
The judge in the Kobe Bryant case rejected a motion by the prosecution to seal any court filings related to the evidence on Monday.

NBA
Last year's Rookie of the Year, Phoenix Suns forward Amare Stoudemire, will miss four weeks after spraining his ankle against the Boston Celtics Friday. Stoudemire is averaging 15.6 points and 9.1 rebounds.

NBA
The Orlando Magic snapped its 19-game losing streak Monday, defeating Phoenix 105-98. Tracy McGrady scored 16 points with 11 rebounds and nine assists. The Magic avoided becoming the sixth team NBA history to lose 20 consecutive games.

NFL
The St. Louis Rams secured a playoff berth by beating the Cleveland Browns 26-20 on Monday Night Football in Cleveland. Rams CB Aeneas Williams intercepted Browns QB Kelly Holcomb twice in less than two minutes, both leading to Rams touchdowns. The Philadelphia Eagles are the only other NFL team to have earned a playoff spot so far.

MLB
The Philadelphia Phillies signed free-agent pitcher Tim Lincecum to a two-year contract worth \$5.5 million Tuesday. Worrell, 36, was 4-4 with a 2.87 ERA and 38 saves in 45 chances.

MLB
Japanese shortstop Kazuo Matsui has agreed to a \$20.1 million, three-year deal with the New York Mets. Matsui batted .305 with 33 HR and 84 RBI last season for the Seibu Lions.

MLB
The Anaheim Angels are close to signing one of this year's top free agent pitchers, Bartolo Colon, according to the Associated Press. The Angels offered Colon a \$48 million, four-year pact. He was 15-13 with a 3.87 ERA and 173 strikeouts last year with the Chicago White Sox.

GALLERY



PATIENCE - Monarchs midfielder Francisca Leyva sits down on the bench, aching to be inside the rectangular field.



MORAL SUPPORT - Valley's right midfielder, center, being present to support her teammates.

MENDING A MONARCH

PHOTOS AND TEXT
BY JORGE GALLEGOS
STAFF WRITER

A serious injury to Monarchs' midfielder Francisca Leyva's left knee during the first minutes of game one, kept her from playing for this year's Lady Monarchs' soccer team.

"She was one of the best players for the team, a key player," said head coach Erick Archila "I had to change the style of playing due to her loss."

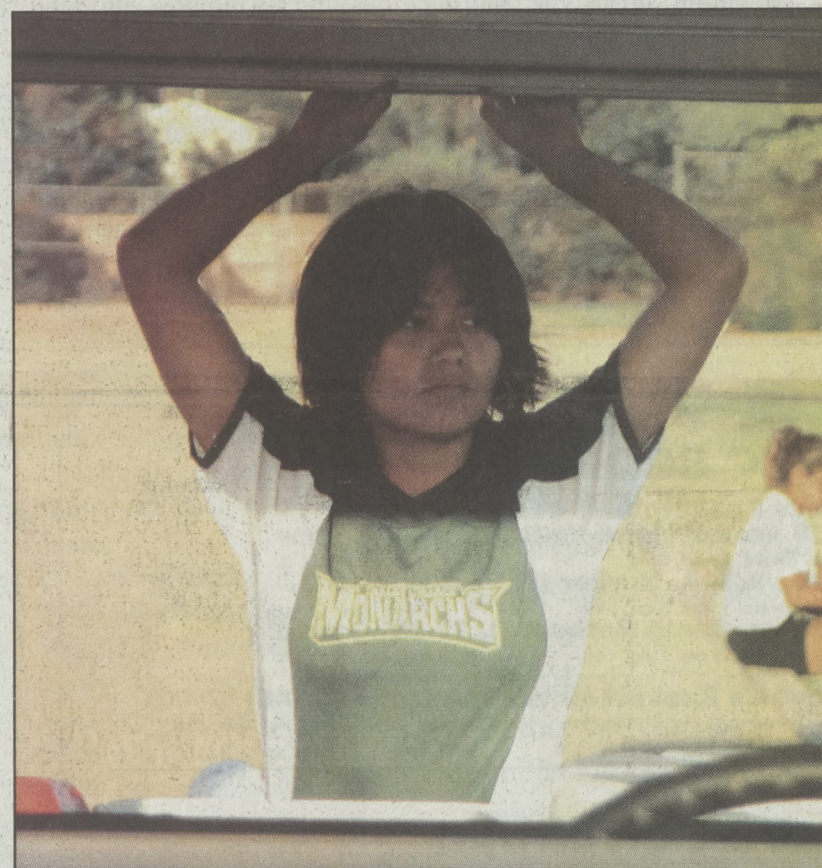
A torn lateral meniscus and damaged lateral collateral ligament in Leyva's left knee killed her illusions of being part of the team she trained so hard for.

"It just popped" the midfielder said. "I wanted to turn, but my knee got stuck in the grass and I felt horrible."

Francisca was treated by Valley's trainer Angelo Cimity. Due to the degree of the injury, Francisca had knee surgery performed by Dr. Scott A. Baden.

Meniscus tears are common to soccer players. They can occur during a weight-bearing rotation movement, the upper leg twisting while the foot stays in one place like in Francisca's case.

Leyva attends three times a week for therapy and she will be able to enjoy the feeling of kicking a soccer ball in six months.



HEARTBROKEN - After being considered as a starter for this year's Valley's women's soccer team, Francisca found out that she couldn't return to the field for the rest of the season.

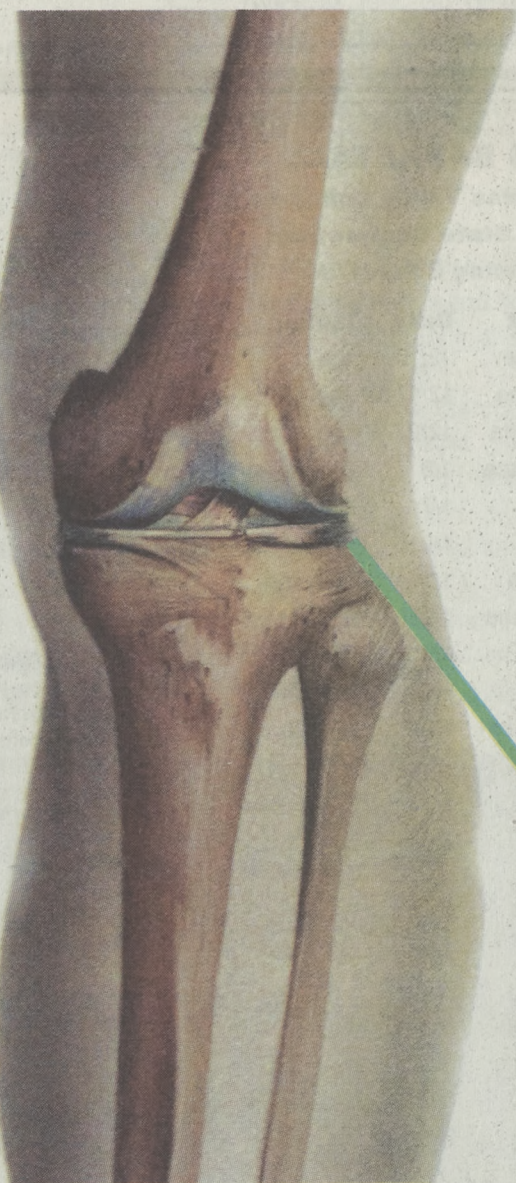
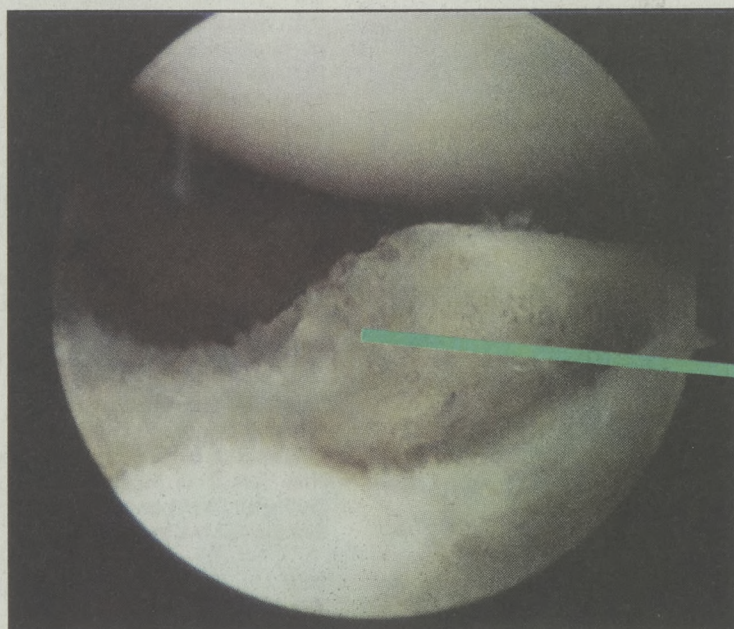


PHOTO ILLUSTRATION BY BOB TEICHMANN AND JORGE GALLEGOS
IMAGES BY ADVANCE ORTHOPEDICS

A CLOSER LOOK - A diagram of the inside of the knee, above, shows what Francisca Leyva's torn meniscus, below, should look like.



TREATED - Dr. Scott A. Baden examines Leyva's knee during one of her monthly visits to check her progress.